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Math Activities



Put Humpty Together Again

(Use with "Humpty Dumpty," page 331)

Skill: color matching

Materials

- Humpty Dumpty reproducible (page 338)
- white card stock
- scissors
- gray butcher paper
- tape
- crayons

Preparation

Copy a class set of the Humpty Dumpty reproducible on card stock, and cut out each Humpty Dumpty. Draw a small stone wall on butcher paper and tape it to the wall.

Directions

Give each child a Humpty Dumpty cutout and a different color crayon. Invite children to color their cutout, and then cut each cutout in half. Place one half below the butcher paper wall, and give one of the other halves to each child. Invite children to find the matching half of their Humpty Dumpty and use tape to "put Humpty Dumpty together again."



Noodle Numbering

(Use with "One, Two, Buckle My Shoe," page 334)

Skill: number recognition

Materials

- paper
- sheet protectors (optional)
- spaghetti
- colander

Preparation

Write in large print a different number from 1 to 10 on separate sheets of paper. Make several sets of numbers. Laminate the papers or place them in sheet protectors. Cook spaghetti according to package directions. Drain the spaghetti, and set it aside.

Directions

Give each child a few numbered papers and some spaghetti noodles. Invite children to use the noodles to form the numbers on their papers.



Little Lamb Sequencing

(Use with “Baa, Baa, Black Sheep,” page 330, “Little Bo Peep,” page 332, or “Mary Had a Little Lamb,” page 333)

Skills: sequencing, measurement, size comparison

Materials

- Lambs reproducible (page 339)
- scissors
- glue

Preparation

Copy and cut out a class set of the Lambs reproducible.

Directions

Give each child a lamb cutout of each size. (Vary the number of lambs used in this activity based on children’s ability.) Have children compare the sizes of the lambs using the terms *bigger* and *smaller*. Ask children to hold up their largest lamb and then their smallest lamb. Invite children to put the lambs in order by size: smallest to largest and largest to smallest. Place the lambs at a center for children to repeat the activity on their own.



Spider Addition and Subtraction

(Use with “The Itsy Bitsy Spider,” page 331, or “Little Miss Muffet,” page 333)

Skills: counting, number sense, estimating

Materials

- plastic spiders (can be cut from Halloween rings)
- resealable plastic bags (optional)

Preparation

none

Directions

Pass out five spiders to each child, and invite children to count the number of spiders that they have. Ask mathematical questions such as *How many spiders would you have if you took away two?* *How many will you have if you add one?* Invite children to estimate the answer and then carry out the process and count their spiders.

Variation

Place between one to five spiders in separate resealable plastic bags. (Leave some spiders out to complete the activity.) Label each bag with a numeral that is either one or two less or one or two more than the number of spiders in the bag. (As an option, draw the corresponding number of dots beside the numeral.) Invite children to add or remove spiders from the bags so the number of spiders matches the label on the bag.



Jack and Jill Go Up the Hill Game

(Use with “Jack and Jill,” page 332)

Skills: counting, one-to-one correspondence

Materials

- Jack and Jill Game reproducible (page 340)
- dice
- counters

Preparation

Make a copy of the Jack and Jill Game reproducible for every two children.

Directions

Divide the class into pairs. Give each pair a game board, a die, and two counters. Invite partners to take turns rolling the die and moving their counter the number of spaces indicated on the die. The game is over when both players reach the well. Tell children they must roll the exact number to get to the well.

Sensory Activities



Humpty Dumpty Experiment

(Use with “Humpty Dumpty,” page 331)

Materials

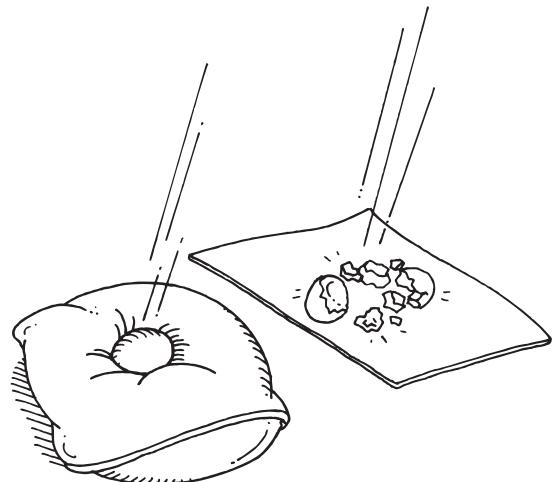
- hard-boiled eggs (1 per “experiment surface”)
- experiment surfaces: pillow, fabric, newspaper, cardboard, bubble wrap

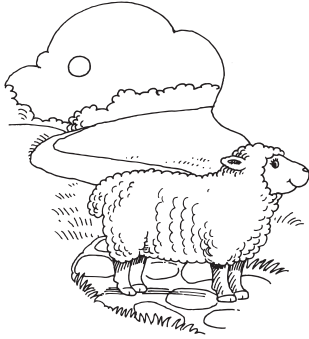
Preparation

none

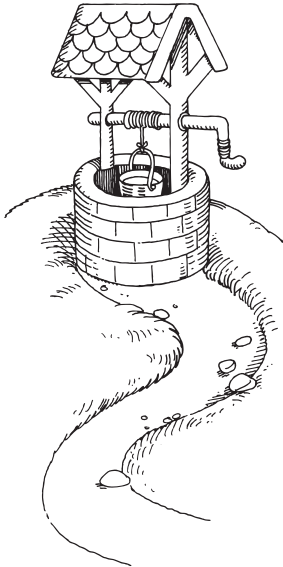
Directions








Explain to children that they will test which surfaces an egg can fall on without breaking. Show children a pillow, a piece of fabric, newspaper, cardboard, and bubble wrap. Ask them to predict which of the items will prevent an egg from breaking. Drop an egg from waist height onto each surface. Compare with children the predictions to the results. Ask them to explain the results.





Nursery Rhymes



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Concepts

The concepts covered in this unit include the following:

- Hundreds of nursery rhymes have been written by many different people.
- Mother Goose nursery rhymes are the best known.
- Nursery rhymes are imaginary stories.
- Nursery rhymes help us learn about the difference between what is real and what is imaginary.
- Some nursery rhymes are funny.
- Some nursery rhymes help us learn about life.
- Some nursery rhymes help us learn to count.

Vocabulary

nursery rhyme—a traditional song or poem written for young children

The nursery rhymes in this unit include the following:

- Baa, Baa, Black Sheep
- Hey, Diddle Diddle
- Humpty Dumpty
- The Itsy Bitsy Spider
- Jack and Jill
- Jack Be Nimble
- Little Bo Peep
- Little Boy Blue
- Little Miss Muffet
- Mary Had a Little Lamb
- The Muffin Man
- Old Mother Hubbard
- One, Two, Buckle My Shoe
- Pat-a-Cake
- The Queen of Hearts
- Rub-a-Dub-Dub
- Simple Simon
- Sing a Song of Six Pence
- There Was an Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe



Date _____

Dear Family:

“Nursery Rhymes” will be the theme for our next unit. We will be doing all kinds of fun activities with these cherished rhymes.

Classroom Activities

Children will participate in the following activities:

- Experimenting to find a way to protect Humpty Dumpty.
- Creating the old woman’s shoe.
- Seeing which items sink or float.
- Working independently or in groups with story bags.
- Listening to and discussing *The Itsy Bitsy Spider* by Iza Trapani.

Home Activities

Here are some activities for your family to try at home to complement what children are doing in the classroom:

- Have your child tell you a bedtime nursery rhyme.
- Read some nursery rhymes to your child before bedtime. If you need some nursery rhymes, let me know.
- Invite your child to describe different nursery rhyme characters as you draw them together.

Have fun as you explore all of the neat Nursery Rhyme activities with your child.

Thank you for all you do!

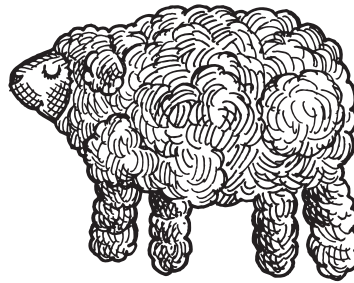
Sincerely,



Dear Family:

We will use the following items during our Nursery Rhymes unit. We would appreciate any help you could give us. We will begin this unit on _____, so please sign and return the form below if you can donate items by _____.

- newspapers
- magazines and catalogs
- small bag of cotton balls
- bubble wrap
- sheet protectors
- spaghetti
- plastic spiders or Halloween spider rings
- clean, crushed eggshells
- toilet paper tubes
- string licorice
- double-stuffed chocolate sandwich cookies
- M&M's
- can of cherry pie filling
- small bag of butterscotch morsels



Thanks!

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I would like to contribute the following items for this unit:

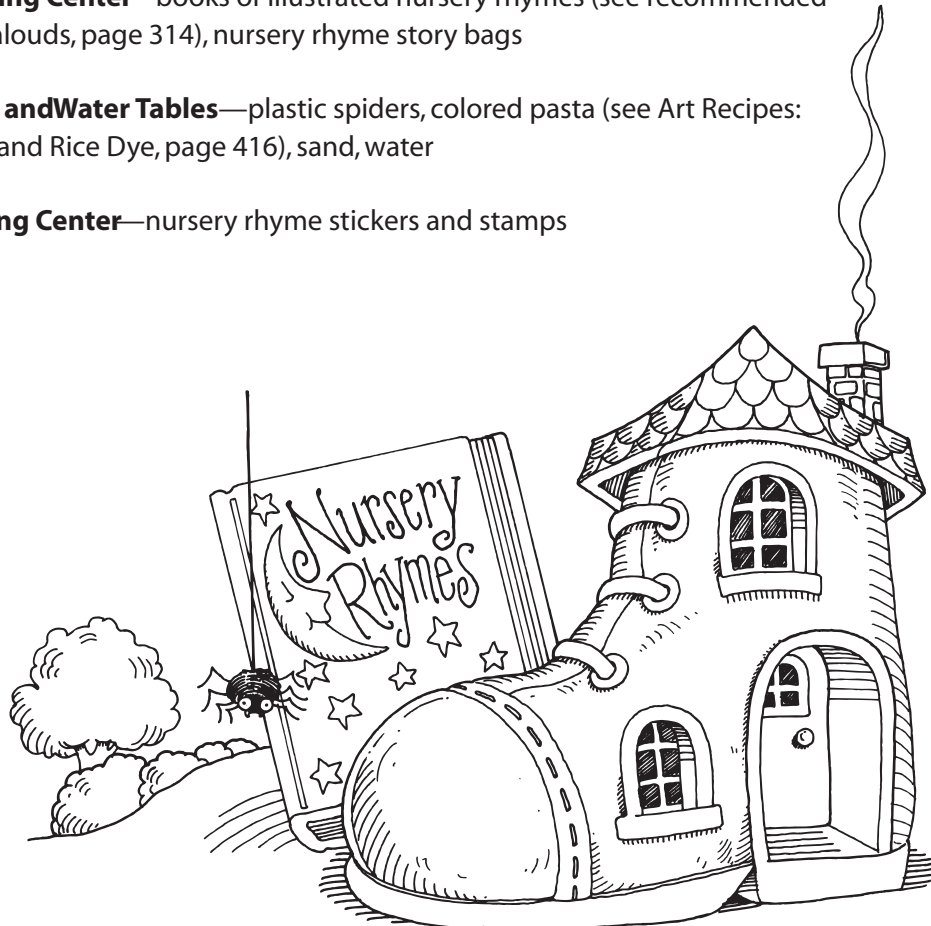
Please contact me at _____ (phone number or e-mail) to let me know how I can help.

(parent's name)

Center Ideas

The following are suggestions for different Nursery Rhyme centers. The activities provided in this unit can be used or modified for these centers:

- **Art Center**—chart paper cut into a shoe, an egg, and other shapes mentioned in nursery rhymes; clay or play dough (see Art Recipes, page 409); cookie cutters
- **Block and Building Center**—blocks, small plastic nursery rhyme characters, Styrofoam bricks to build a wall for Humpty Dumpty, plastic Easter eggs
- **Dramatic Play Center**—puppets of nursery rhyme characters, dress-up clothes
- **Listening Center**—tapes of nursery rhymes, tapes of stories written in class
- **Manipulatives Center**—nursery rhyme puzzles
- **Math and Science Center**—copies of the Lambs reproducible (page 339), real spider in a container, magnifying glass
- **Reading Center**—books of illustrated nursery rhymes (see recommended read-alouds, page 314), nursery rhyme story bags
- **Sand and Water Tables**—plastic spiders, colored pasta (see Art Recipes: Pasta and Rice Dye, page 416), sand, water
- **Writing Center**—nursery rhyme stickers and stamps



Language Development

Recommended Read-Alouds

The Arnold Lobel Book of Mother Goose by Arnold Lobel
(Alfred A. Knopf Books)

Bad Egg: The True Story of Humpty Dumpty by Sarah Hayes
(Little, Brown and Company)

Hey, Diddle Diddle by Kin Eagle (Charlesbridge Publishing)

Humpty Dumpty by Daniel Kirk (G. P. Putnam's Sons)

The Itsy Bitsy Spider by Iza Trapani (Charlesbridge Publishing)

Jack and Jill by Daniel Kirk (G. P. Putnam's Sons)

Mary Had a Little Jam and Other Silly Rhymes by Bruce Lansky (Meadowbrook Press)

Mary Had a Little Lamb by Iza Trapani (Charlesbridge Publishing)

The New Adventures of Mother Goose by Bruce Lansky
(Meadowbrook Press)

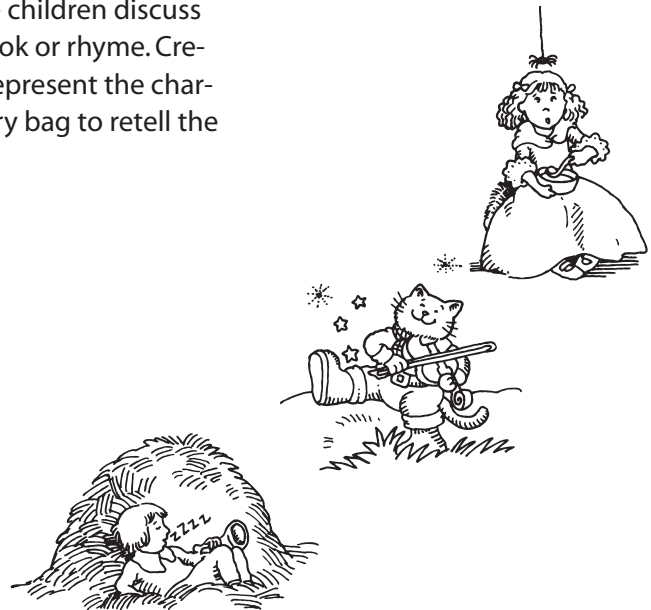
Nursery Classics: A Galdone Treasury by Paul Galdone
(Clarion Books)

*The Random House Children's Treasury: Fairy Tales,
Nursery Rhymes & Nonsense Verse* by Alice Mills
(Gramercy Books)

Rub a Dub Dub by Kin Eagle (Charlesbridge Publishing)

Read-Aloud Activity

Read a book or nursery rhyme to children. Have children discuss their reactions, ideas, and feelings about the book or rhyme. Create a story bag with flannel board pieces that represent the characters and events. Invite children to use the story bag to retell the story or rhyme.



Discussion Starters

Use these suggestions to promote discussions about a nursery rhyme. These ideas can be discussed and then used to write a variation of a nursery rhyme for children to illustrate.

Little Miss Muffet

- What are curds and whey? (*cottage cheese*)
- What is a tuffet? (*a small clump or mound of grass, a low seat*)
- A spider scared Miss Muffet. What scares you?
- Where do you think Miss Muffet went when she ran away?

Humpty Dumpty

- Why do you think Humpty Dumpty was sitting on a wall?
- What made Humpty Dumpty fall down?
- Why couldn't anyone put Humpty together again?

Little Bo Peep

- Where do you think Little Bo Peep lost her sheep?
- Do you think the sheep were just hiding from her?

There Was an Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe

- How many children do you think the old woman had?
- Could you live in a shoe?
- Would it be fun to live in a shoe?

Hey, Diddle Diddle

- Why did a cow jump over the moon?
- Where do you think the dish and the spoon went when they ran away?

Old Mother Hubbard

- Was there any food in the cupboard for Old Mother Hubbard? How do you know?





Pat-a-Cake Biscuits

(Use with "Pat-a-Cake," page 335)

Ingredients

- food coloring
- egg whites
- cans of refrigerated biscuits (1 biscuit per child)

Other Supplies

- bowl
- spoon
- paper plates
- new paintbrushes
- baking sheet

Directions

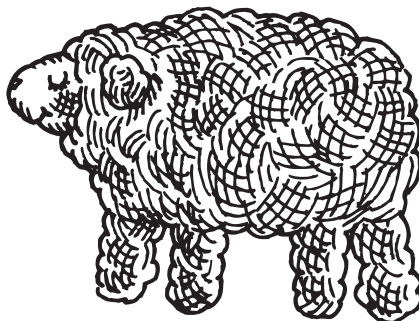
Right before this activity, mix a few drops of food coloring with egg whites in a bowl. Give each child a paper plate with an uncooked biscuit. Have children "pat" their biscuit until it is flat. Help children use the egg-white mixture to "paint" their initial on their biscuit. Bake the biscuits according to the directions on the package.

Nursery Rhymes



Baa, Baa, Black Sheep

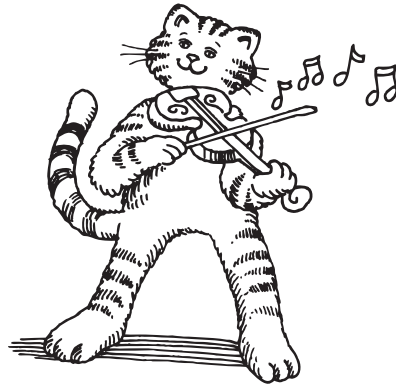
Baa, baa, black sheep,
Have you any wool?
Yes, sir,
Yes sir,
Three bags full.
One for my master.
One for my dame,
And one for the little boy
Who lives down the lane.





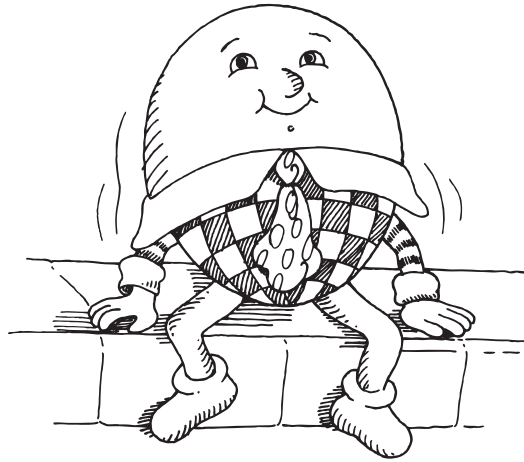
Hey, Diddle Diddle

Hey, diddle diddle,
The cat and the fiddle,
The cow jumped over the moon.
The little dog laughed to see such a sight,
And the dish ran away with the spoon.



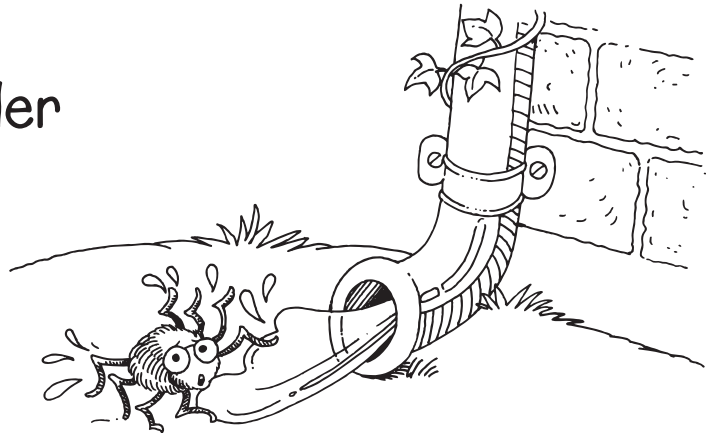
Humpty Dumpty

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
All the king's horses and all the king's men
Couldn't put Humpty together again.

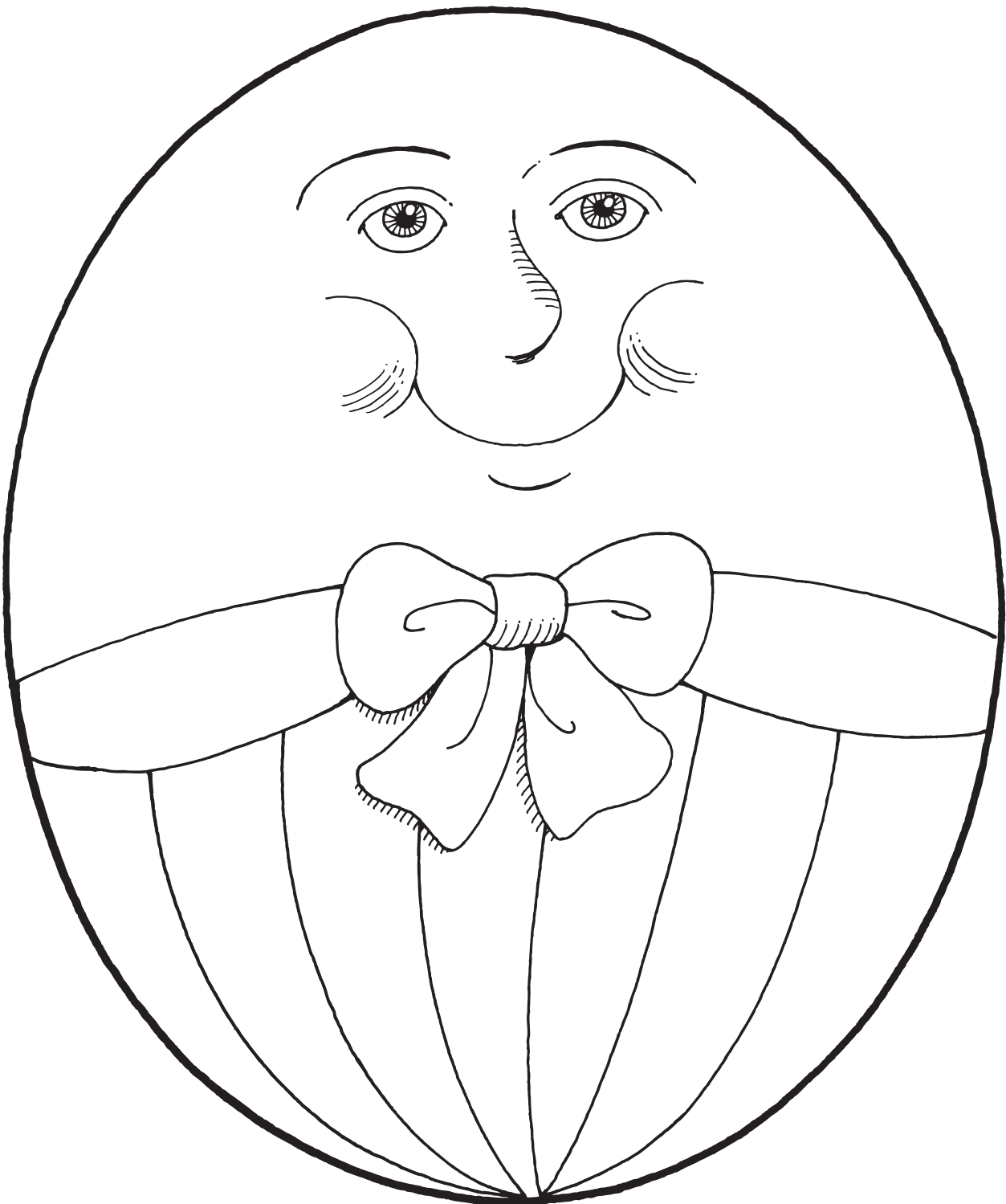


The Itsy Bitsy Spider

The itsy bitsy spider
Went up the water spout.
Down came the rain
And washed the spider out.
Out came the sun
And dried up all the rain.
And the itsy bitsy spider
Went up the spout again.



Humpty Dumpty



Lambs

