

Activity 16

Babysitting Dilemmas

When you babysit, you are responsible for the safety and well-being of the children in your care. It's a good idea to think ahead to the kinds of situations that might occur and how to deal with them.

Directions: Read situations A and B. Use the decision-making process to answer the question that follows each situation.

Situation A: Tonight Kim is babysitting nine-year-old Chase. When Kim and Chase sit down to watch some television, Chase turns the channel to a program that shows very violent scenes. Chase insists that his mother lets him watch the show, but Kim doesn't think the show is appropriate for children and doesn't feel comfortable letting Chase watch it.

If you were Kim, what decision would you make, and how would you handle the situation?

1. State the situation. _____

2. Identify the decision you must make. _____

3. List possible alternatives.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each alternative?

a. Advantages: _____

Disadvantages: _____

b. Advantages: _____

Disadvantages: _____

c. Advantages: _____

Disadvantages: _____

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Activity 16 *continued*

5. Identify the best alternative, using your values to guide you. _____

Situation B: Marco, 13, is babysitting for his cousin Tanya, 2, for the first time. At about 9:00 p.m., Tanya wakes up crying. When Marco picks her up, she feels very hot. Marco's aunt (Tanya's mom) has told him to call her immediately if anything is wrong. Marco knows, however, that she is at her job at a factory. He doesn't want to disturb her, but he's worried about Tanya. The number for Tanya's pediatrician is on the refrigerator. Also, Marco's mother is at home, only 10 minutes away. Marco wants to follow his aunt's instructions so that she will hire him again.

If you were Marco, what decision would you make, and how would you handle the situation?

6. State the situation. _____

7. Identify the decision you must make. _____

8. List possible alternatives.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

9. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each alternative?

a. Advantages: _____

Disadvantages: _____

b. Advantages: _____

Disadvantages: _____

c. Advantages: _____

Disadvantages: _____

10. Identify the best alternative, using your values to guide you. _____

Activity 17

Making a Children's Book

Encourage a child's creativity and love of books. This fun babysitting activity is ideal for preschoolers and young school-age children.

Supplies

- heavy card stock
- cardboard
- colored markers or crayons
- glitter pen
- scissors
- 3-hole punch
- glue
- ribbon, yarn, or string

Directions:

1. Encourage the child to tell you a story. It might be a story about a pet, or an adventure story, or a tale about imaginary people or creatures. Help the child get started, if necessary, then let the child's imagination take over.
2. As the child tells the story, write it down, a sentence or two at a time, on the heavy card stock.
3. Encourage the child to illustrate the story. Re-read the sentences on each page, and have the child draw and color pictures on pieces of paper.
4. Cut out the pictures and glue them to the appropriate pages. **See Fig. 17-1.**

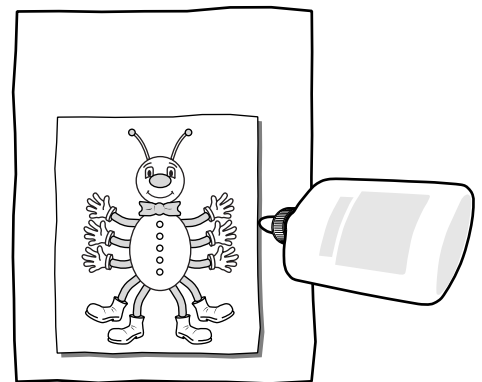


Fig. 17-1

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Activity 17 continued

5. *Optional:* Older children will love creating three-dimensional pictures. Let them draw, color, and cut out smaller shapes that will “pop up” when the page is opened. Then glue them onto the pages of the book. **See Fig. 17-2.**
6. Cut out two pieces of cardboard, the same size as the card stock, to use as covers.
7. Ask the child to think of a title for the story. Use the glitter pen to write the title on one of the “covers,” or have the child write the title.
8. Below the title, write “by” followed by the child’s name.
9. Assemble the book by placing the pages between the cardboard covers, with the front cover on top.
10. Use the 3-hole punch to make holes along the spine of the book. **See Fig. 17-3.**
11. Bind the book with ribbon, yarn, or string.

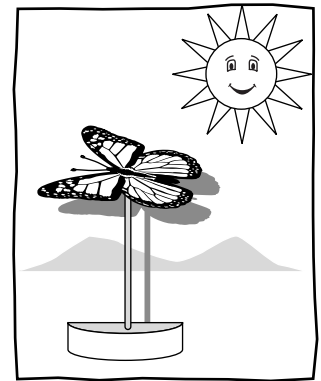


Fig. 17-2

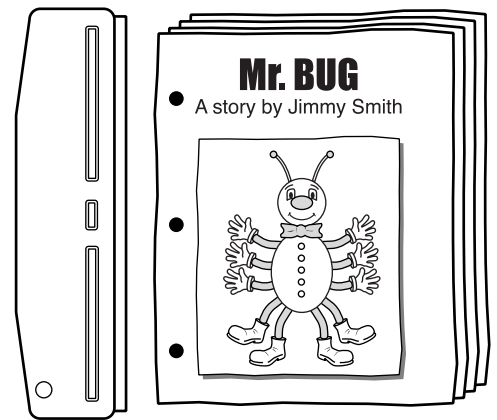


Fig. 17-3

Activity 18

Bean Bag Toss

This is a great game for children to play at parties or anytime. It helps them develop their hand-eye coordination, too.

Supplies

- large piece of foam core board, at least 3 ft. \times 4 ft. (0.9 m \times 1.2 m)
- colored markers
- scissors
- $\frac{1}{4}$ yard (0.25 m) of cotton print fabric or muslin (*Note: Large fabric scraps will also work.*)
- thread to match fabric
- straight pins
- hand-sewing needle
- dry beans

Directions:

1. Using the colored markers, draw a picture on the foam core board. Include in your picture three different size circles. The smallest circle should be 6 in. (15 cm) in diameter. **See Fig. 18-1.**
2. Very carefully score the circles with the tip of the scissors and then cut out the circles.

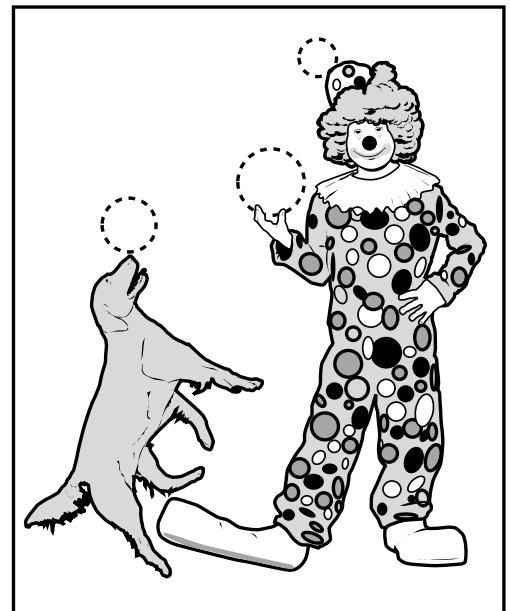


Fig. 18-1

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Activity 18 continued

3. Cut out three pieces of fabric, 11 in. × 6 in. (28 cm × 15 cm).
4. Fold the fabric pieces in half, right sides together, and pin the edges. **See Fig. 18-2.**

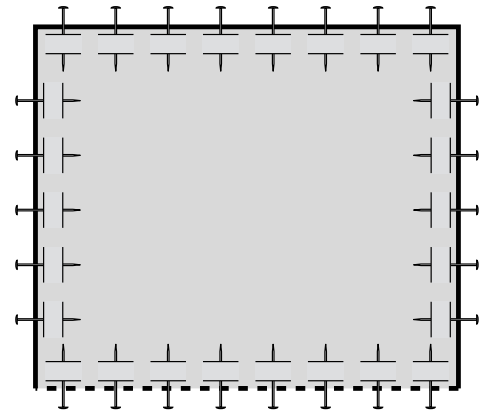


Fig. 18-2

5. Stitch around the edges using a $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. (1.3-cm) seam allowance and leaving a 3-in. (7.5-cm) opening. **See Fig. 18-3.**
6. Turn the squares right-side out.
7. Fill the bags with dry beans. Do not make them too full.

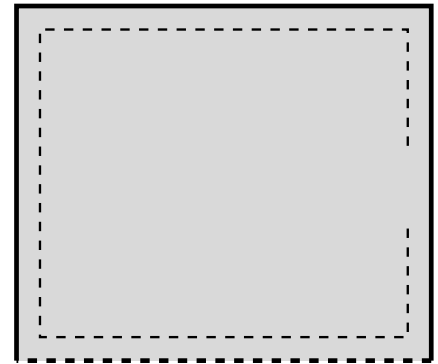


Fig. 18-3

8. Stitch the opening closed with a slipstitch or with a machine stitch. **See Fig. 18-4.**
9. When you are ready to play bean bag toss, prop the picture board against a chair. Assign a point value for each hole. Then have the children stand back and toss the bean bags through the holes.

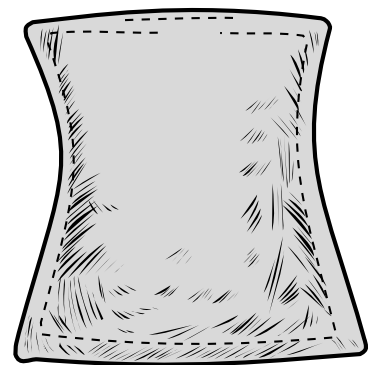


Fig. 18-4