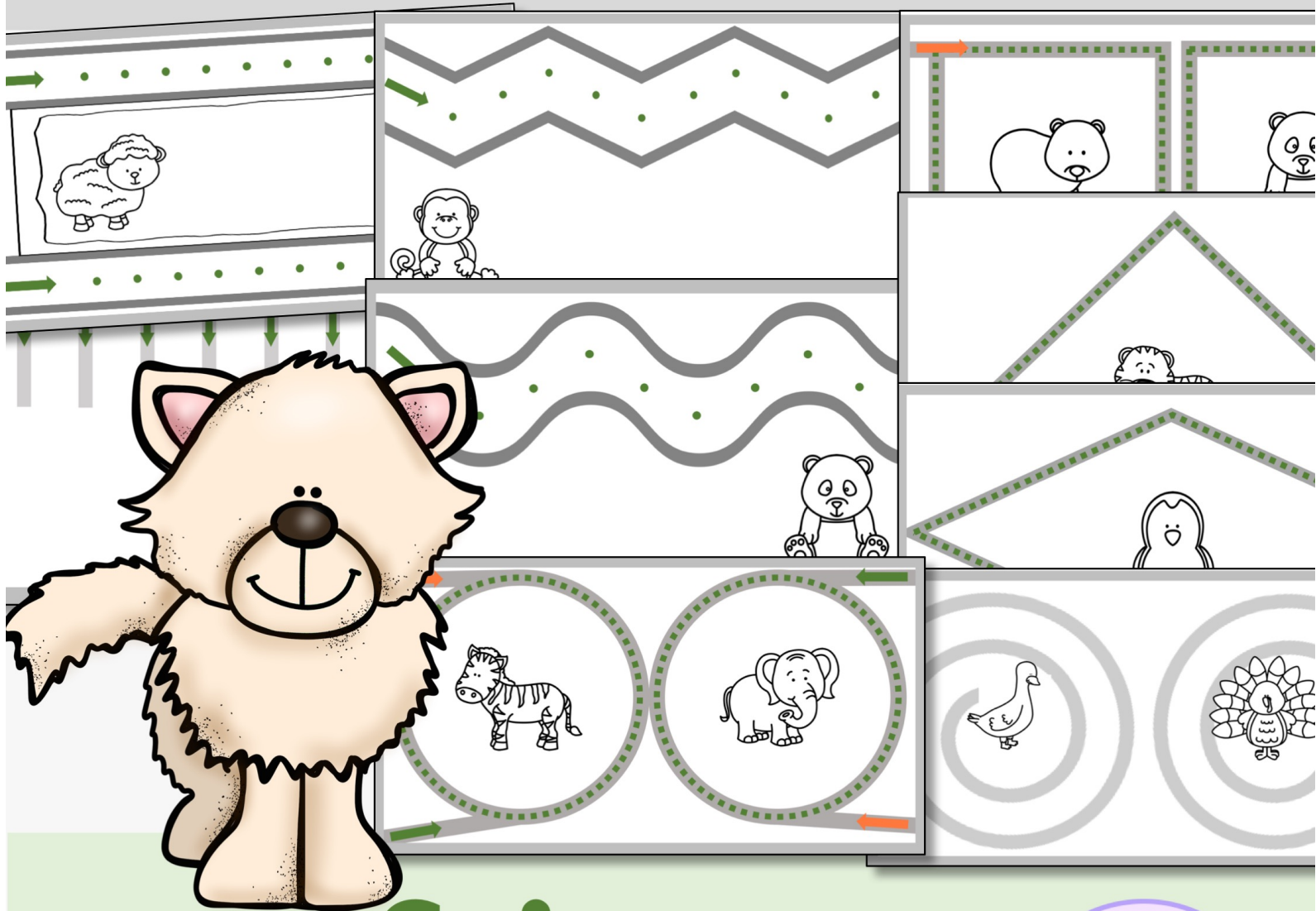


Kids Master Skills Take Home Packet



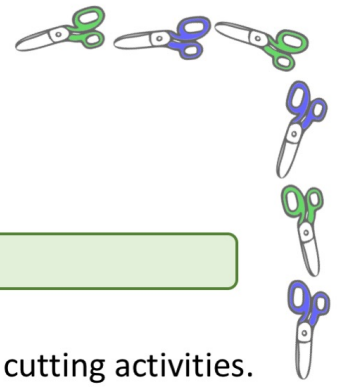
Scissors Skills



by Occupational Therapist, Lisa Marnell

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Tips for Scissors Skills



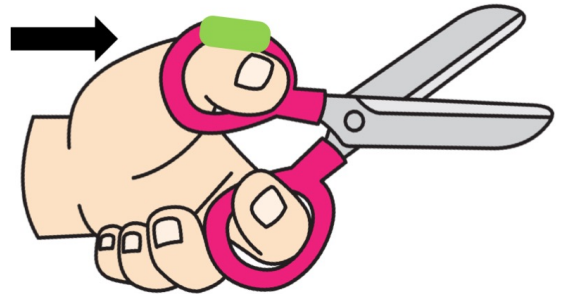
When is a Child Ready to Learn Scissors Skills?

- 1- The child is two and a half to three years old and is able to sit for these cutting activities.
- 2- The child shows interest in learning how to use scissors.
- 3- The child is able to imitate opening and closing his or her hand as needed for cutting, making a fist, then straightening the hand.
- 4- The child is able to follow simple directions well.

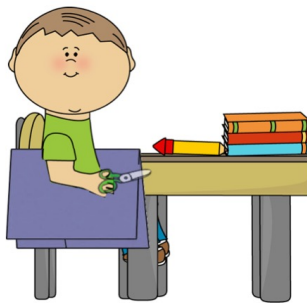
Occupational Therapy (OT) Hacks for Skilled Scissors Use!

Place colorful tape on the correct/ smaller scissors loop. This gives children a visual cue regarding where to put their thumb.

TAPE



FOLDER

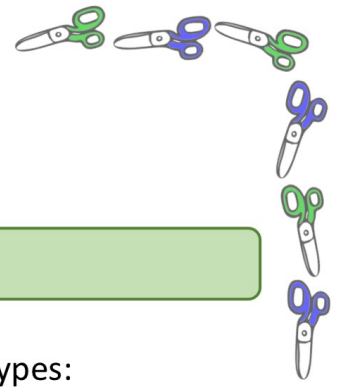


A child's elbow should stay "tucked" at his side. If he positions it out to the side when cutting, have him hold a folder under his arm. This promotes the correct elbow position. Try a small cushion if a folder is too challenging.

A child must use two hands together when cutting. If a child has trouble coordinating her hands, help out by holding whatever material she is cutting. This allows her to focus on opening and closing her hand to cut with scissors.



How to Choose Scissors?



1- Blades

Blades may be plastic as with play-doh scissors.

Blades may be metal as with Koopy or Fiskars scissors.



Plastic blades can be sharp enough to cut paper well and are unlikely to hurt a child. Metal blades may cut more efficiently and give a child more immediate positive reinforcement for cutting attempts. But these do run more risk of finger cuts.

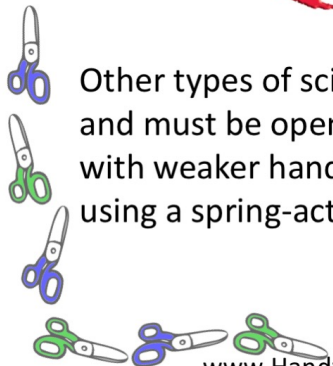
When teaching scissors skills, the primary concern is children's safety. Close adult supervision is required at all times. Choosing between plastic versus metal is a personal choice.

2- Opening and Closing Action

Scissors may have a spring-action design. This means they will open automatically. These two pairs both have spring-action.



Other types of scissors have no spring-action and must be opened by the child. Children with weaker hands may benefit from initially using a spring-action scissors.



3- Handles

Handles may be of three types:

1- No Handles – as with Mini-Loop Scissors



2- Identical Handles – as with Benbow scissors



3- One Large/One Small – as with Fiskars



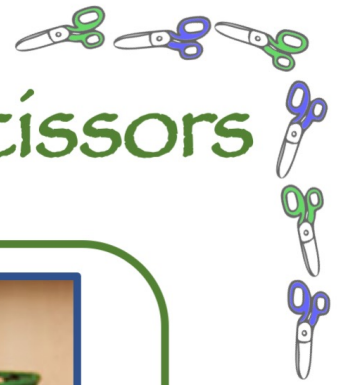
1- “No Handles” scissors use the whole hand. Kids don't worry about placing fingers and thumb correctly. These may be easier to use.

2- “Identical Handles” may be perfect for little hands and many OT's love these. But allowing only one finger in the handle may make opening and closing scissors difficult.

3- “One Large/One Small” handles allow placement of two or more fingers in the larger loop. This increases the leverage and strength a child has to close the scissors.

Scissors choice is a personal decision for both adult and child. There is no correct answer. Think about the differences between scissors and try a few pairs to help you choose!

The 3 T's: Rules for Using Scissors



1- **TUCK!**

TUCK your elbow
by your side



2- **TOP!**

Keep your thumb
on **TOP**

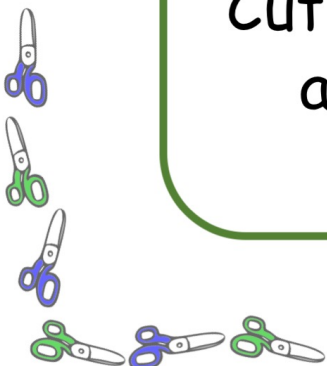


3- **TABLE!**

Cut toward the **TABLE**
and away from you



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Scissors Skills Developmental Milestones!



Child's Age

Scissors Skills

2 to 3 Years:

- * begins to snip paper
- * often grasps scissors improperly
- * may hold paper with helping hand
- * cannot move page forward with helping hand

3 to 4 Years:

- * cuts on a wide, straight line
(cuts 6 inches with $\frac{1}{4}$ inch accuracy)
- * cuts on a wide, curved line
(cuts 6 inches with $\frac{1}{4}$ inch accuracy)
- * cuts out a circle of 6 inch diameter
(cuts with $\frac{1}{2}$ inch accuracy)
- * holds paper consistently with helping hand
- * begins to turn the page with helping hand

4 to 5 Years:

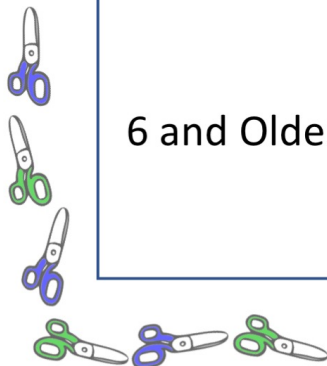
- * cuts out square/triangle of 3 inch diameter
(cuts with $\frac{1}{2}$ inch accuracy)
- * consistently turns the page with helping hand

5 to 6 Years:

- * able to cut out more complex figures well
- * consistently holds scissors with mature grasp
- * coordinates hands well to hold and turn the page while cutting

6 and Older:

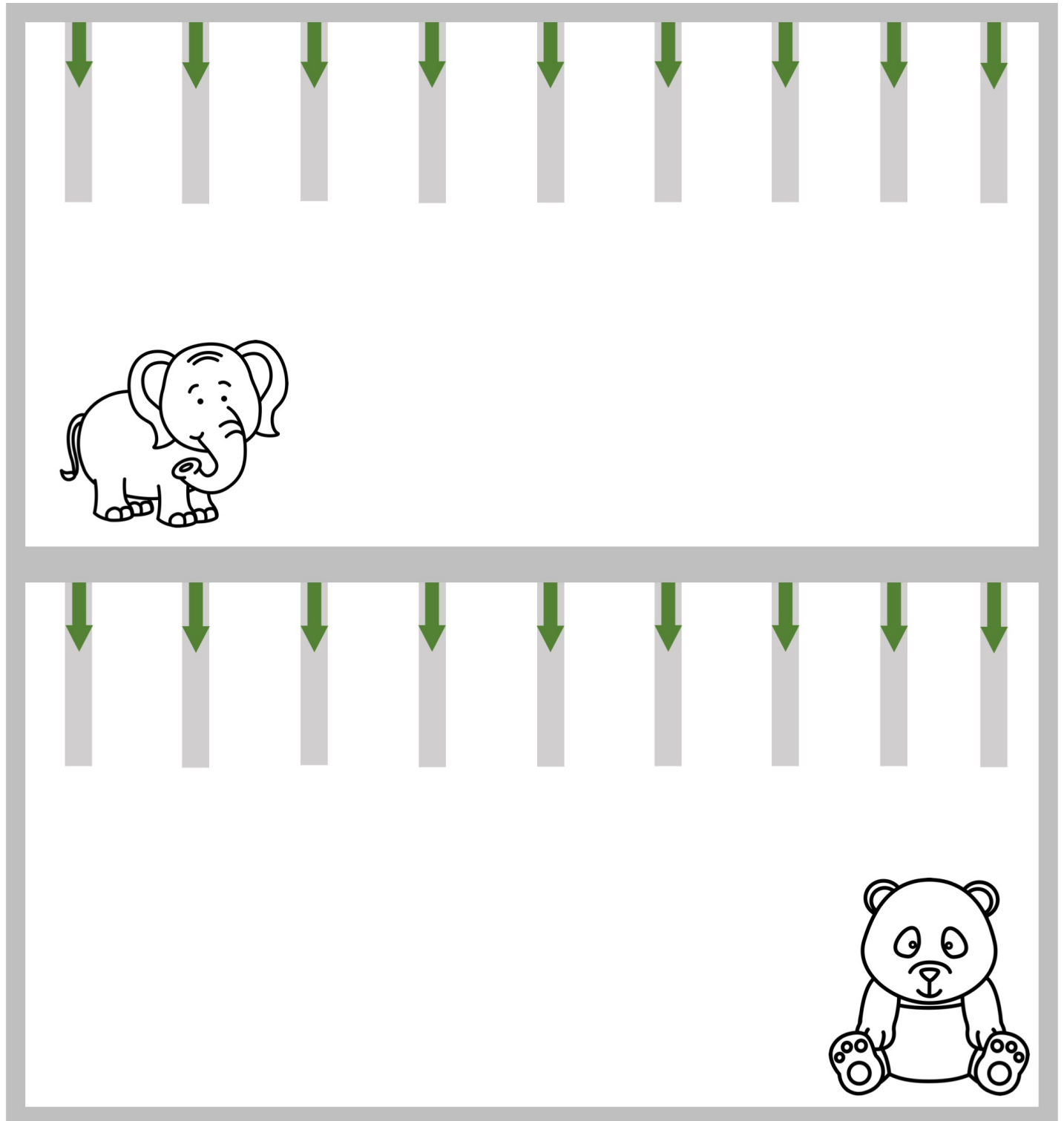
- * able to cut out complex figures accurately



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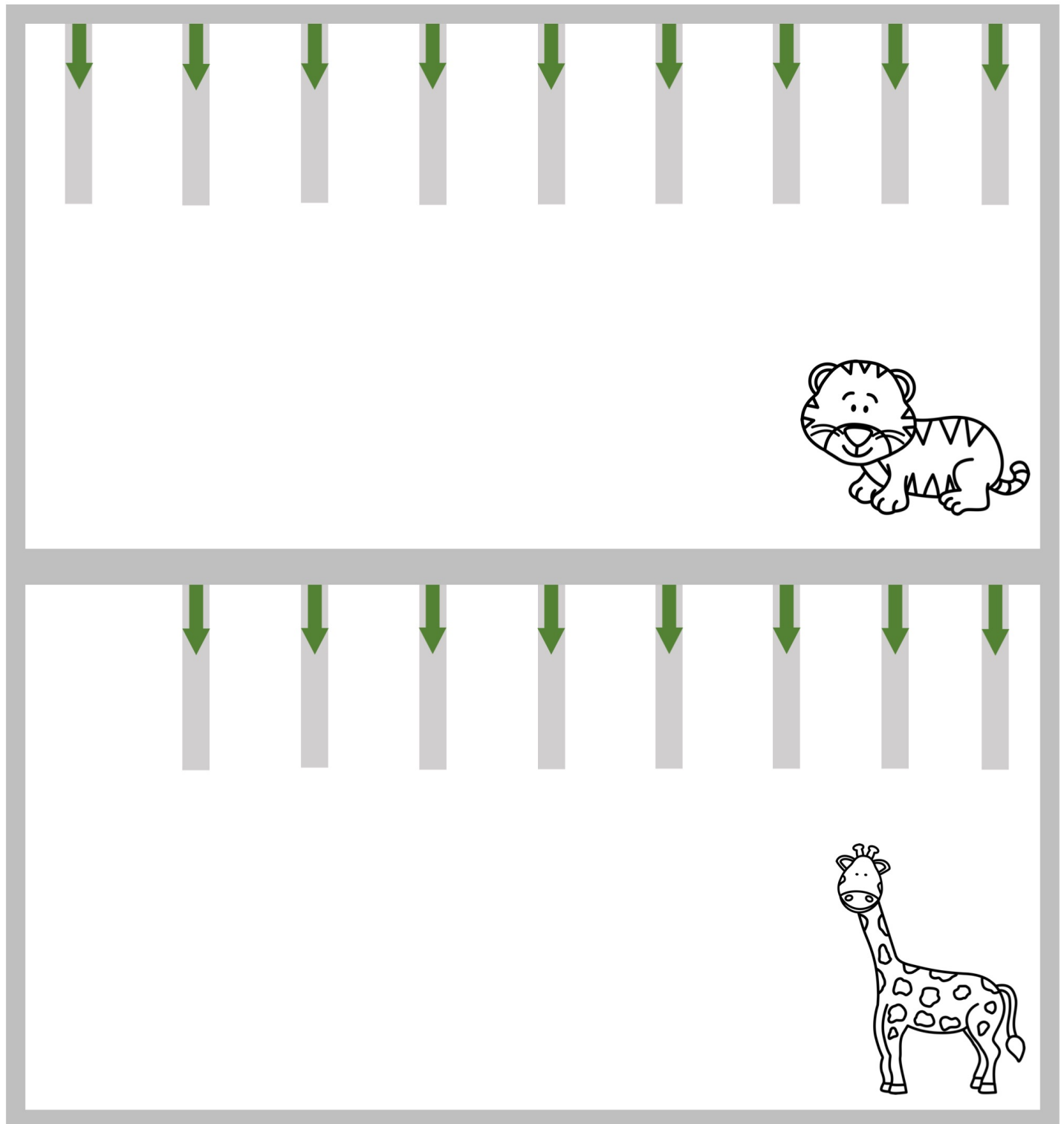
Scissors Skills – Make Fringe!

- Directions:
- 1- Child colors top half blue to make sky.
 - 2- Child cuts lines to make fringe.
 - 3- Child decorates the picture.



Scissors Skills – Make Fringe!

- Directions:
- 1- Child colors top half blue to make sky.
 - 2- Child cuts lines to make fringe.
 - 3- Child decorates the picture.



Scissors Skills – Cut Straight Lines!

Directions: 1- Cut along the dotted line.
2- Make a decorative picture!

Handwriting practice sheet for cutting straight lines. The sheet is divided into four horizontal sections, each with a green arrow pointing right and a row of ten green dots for cutting practice.

The first section contains a line drawing of a cow on the left side of the cutting line.

The second section contains a line drawing of a rooster on the right side of the cutting line.

Scissors Skills – Cut Straight Lines!

Directions: 1- Cut along the dotted line.
2- Make a decorative picture!

Handwriting practice sheet for cutting straight lines. The sheet contains four rows, each with a green arrow pointing right and a dotted line for cutting. Below each row is a rectangular box for drawing a picture.

Row 1: A kangaroo is drawn on the left side of the box.

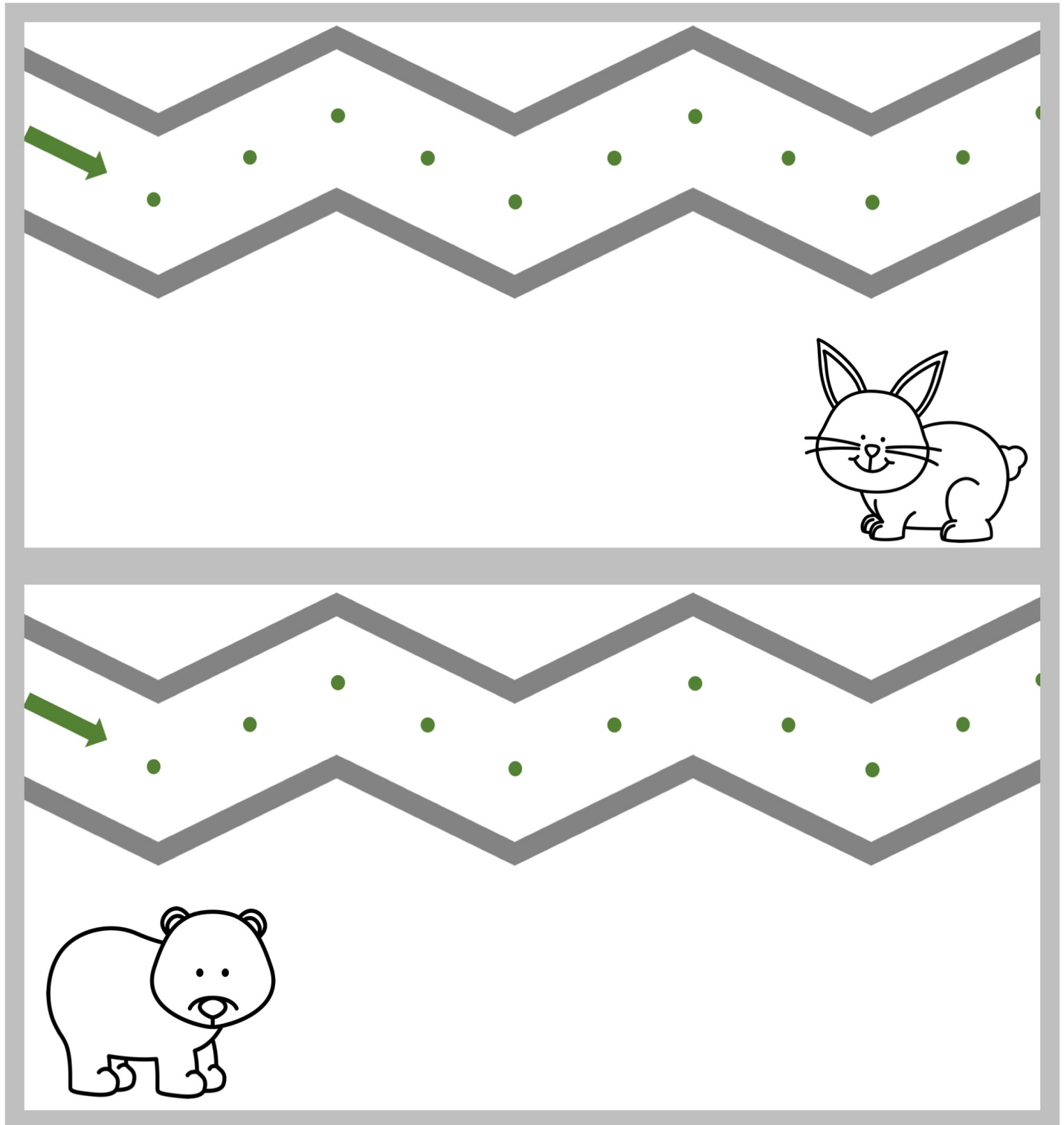
Row 2: A blank box for drawing.

Row 3: A blank box for drawing.

Row 4: A cartoon moose is drawn on the right side of the box.

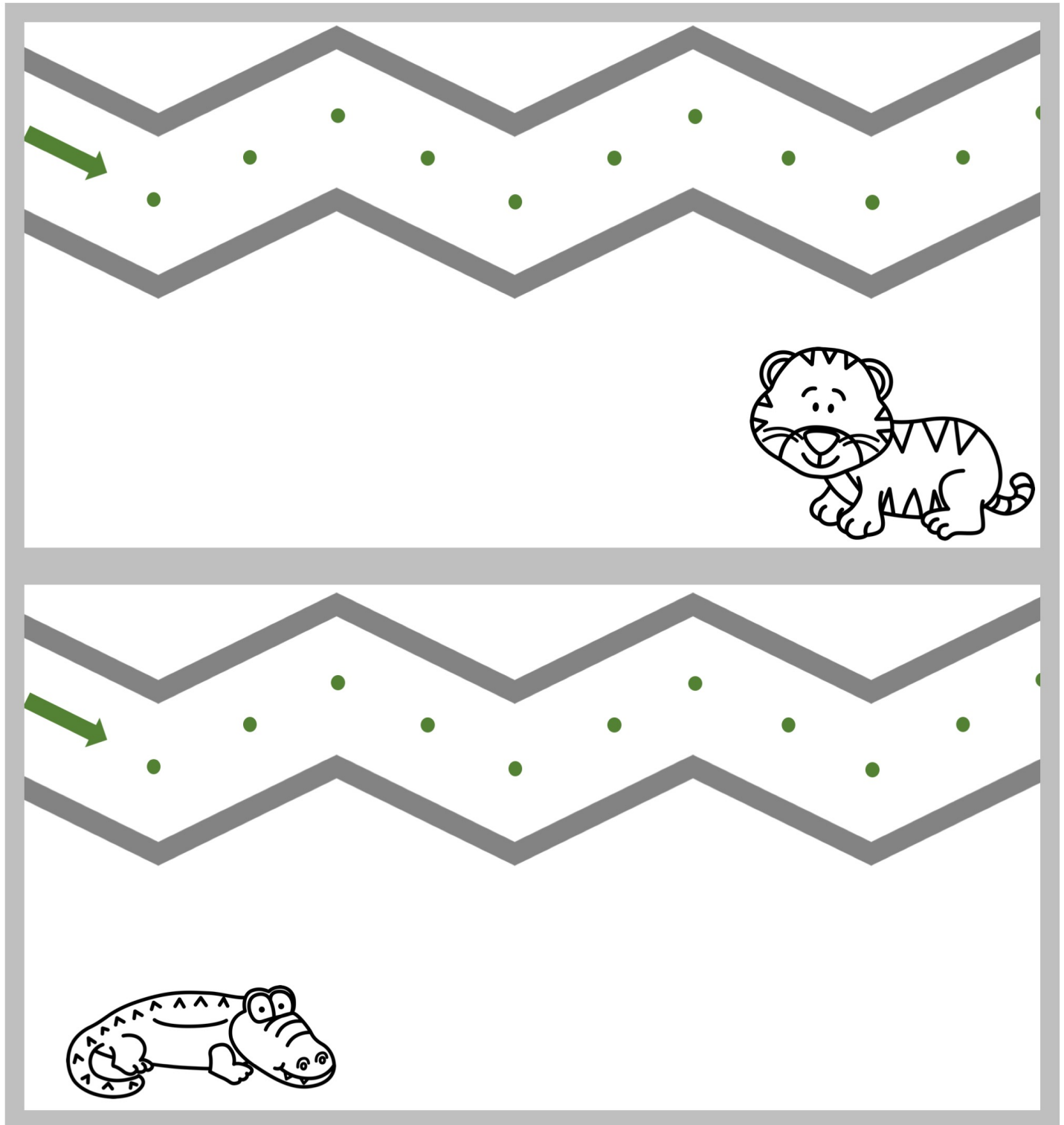
Scissors Skills – Cut Zig Zag Lines!

Directions: 1- Cut along the dotted line.
2- Make a decorative picture!



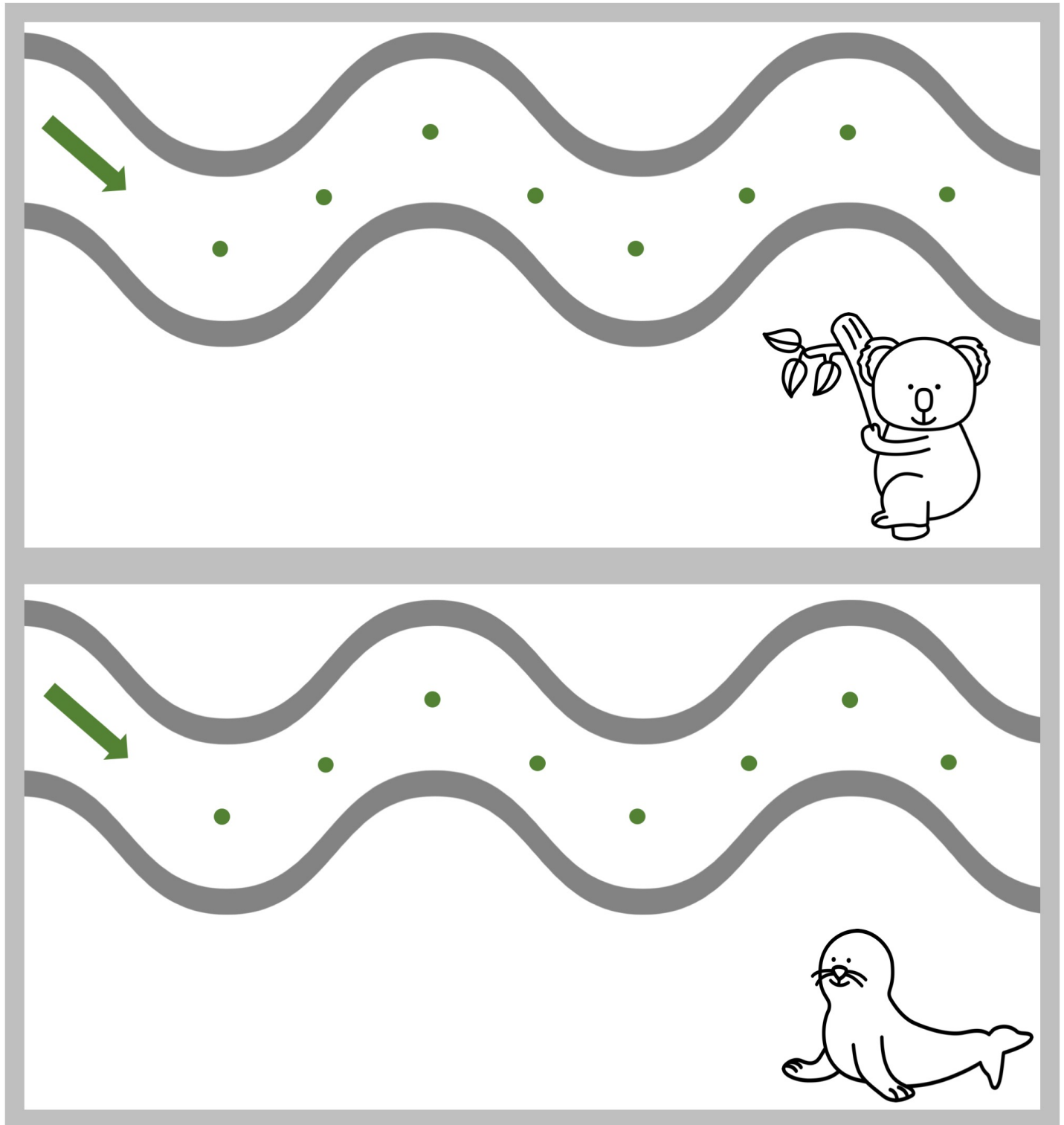
Scissors Skills – Cut Zig Zag Lines!

Directions: 1- Cut along the dotted line.
2- Make a decorative picture!



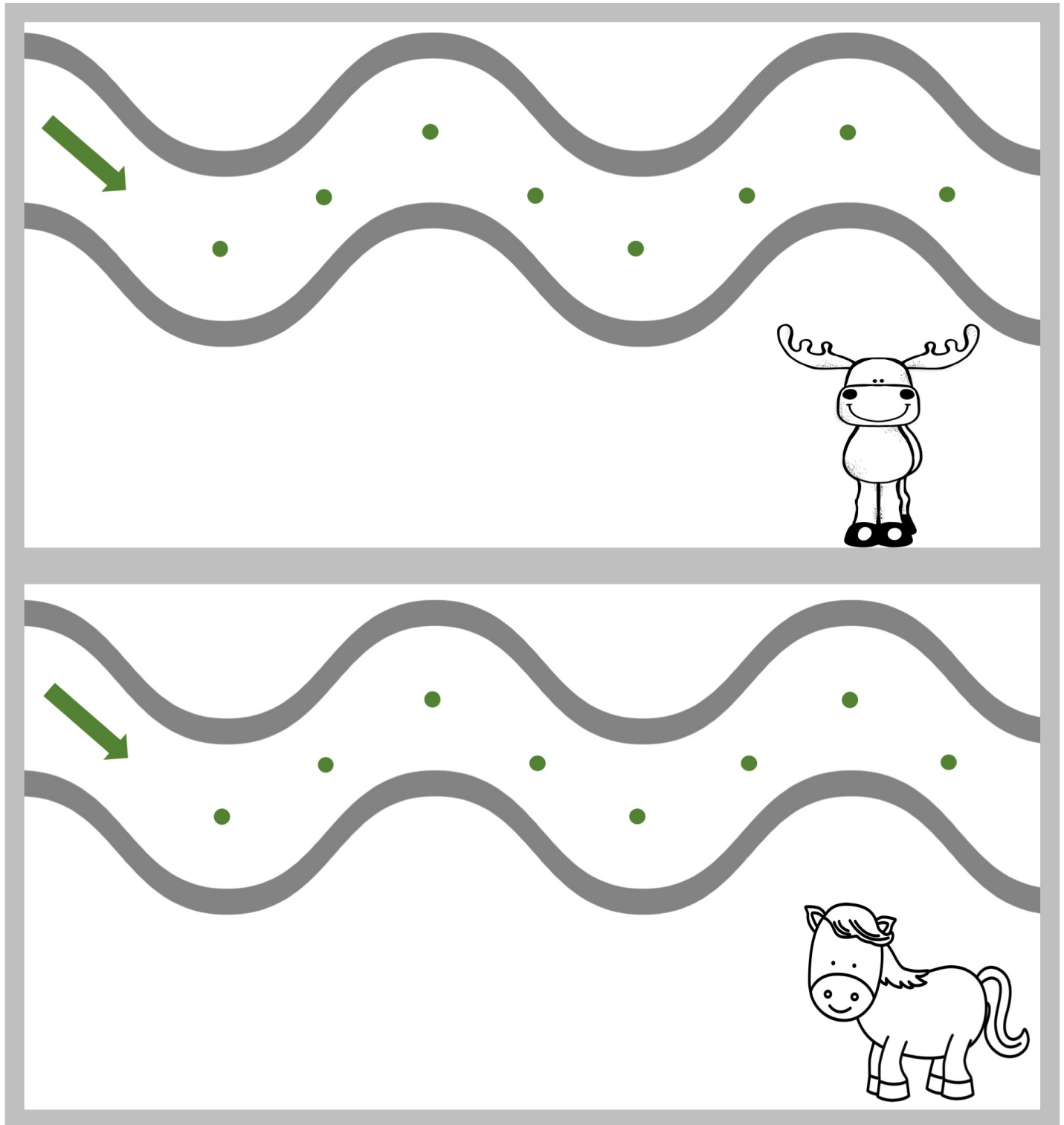
Scissors Skills – Cut Curvy Lines!

Directions: 1- Cut along the dotted line.
2- Make a decorative picture!



Scissors Skills – Cut Curvy Lines!

Directions: 1- Cut along the dotted line.
2- Make a decorative picture!

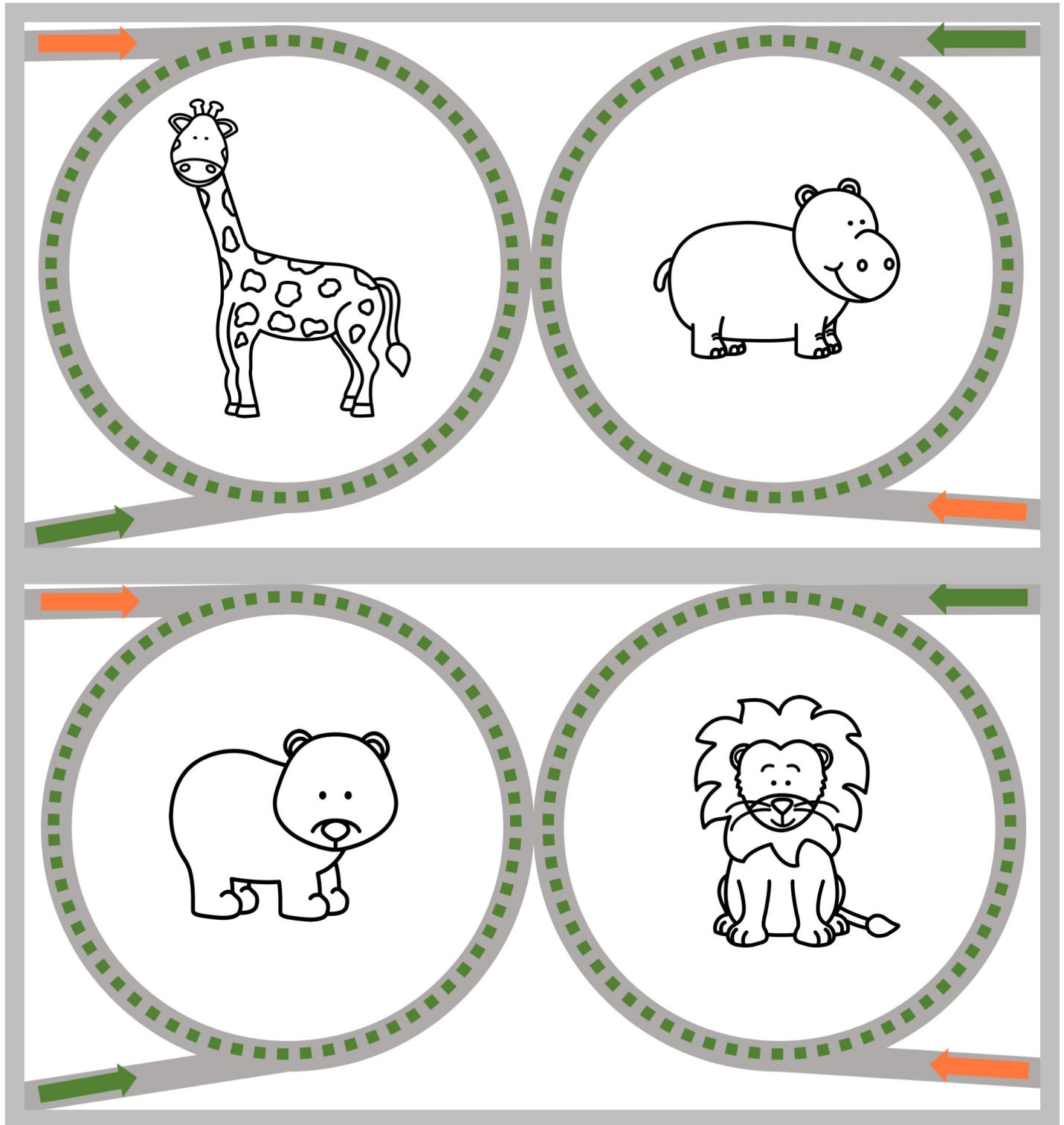


Scissors Skills – Cut Circles!

Directions: 1- Cut along the dotted line.
2- Make a decorative picture!

Righties cut at GREEN arrows. 

Lefties cut at ORANGE arrows. 

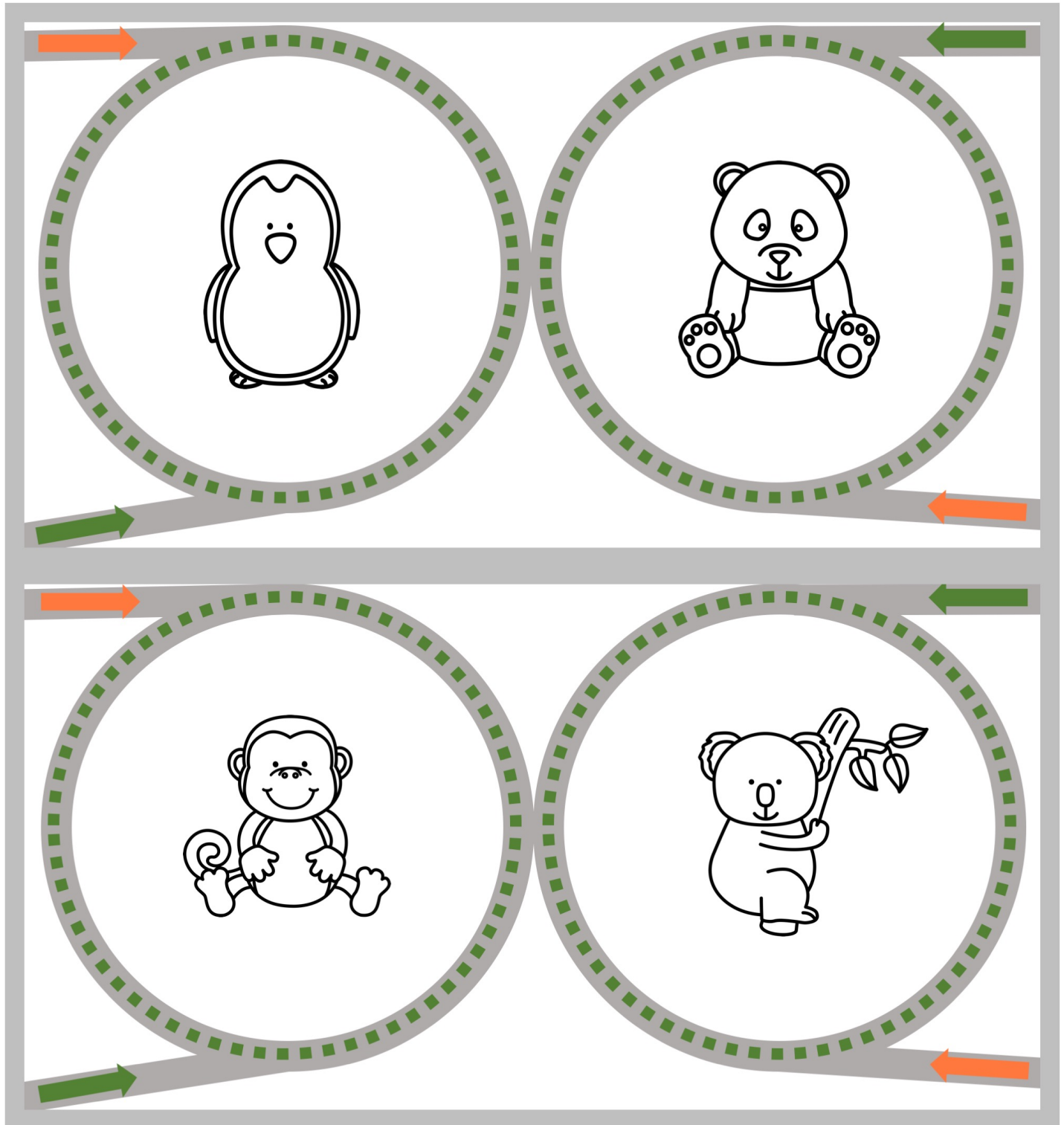


Scissors Skills – Cut Circles!

Directions: 1- Cut along the dotted line.
2- Make a decorative picture!

Righties cut at GREEN arrows. 

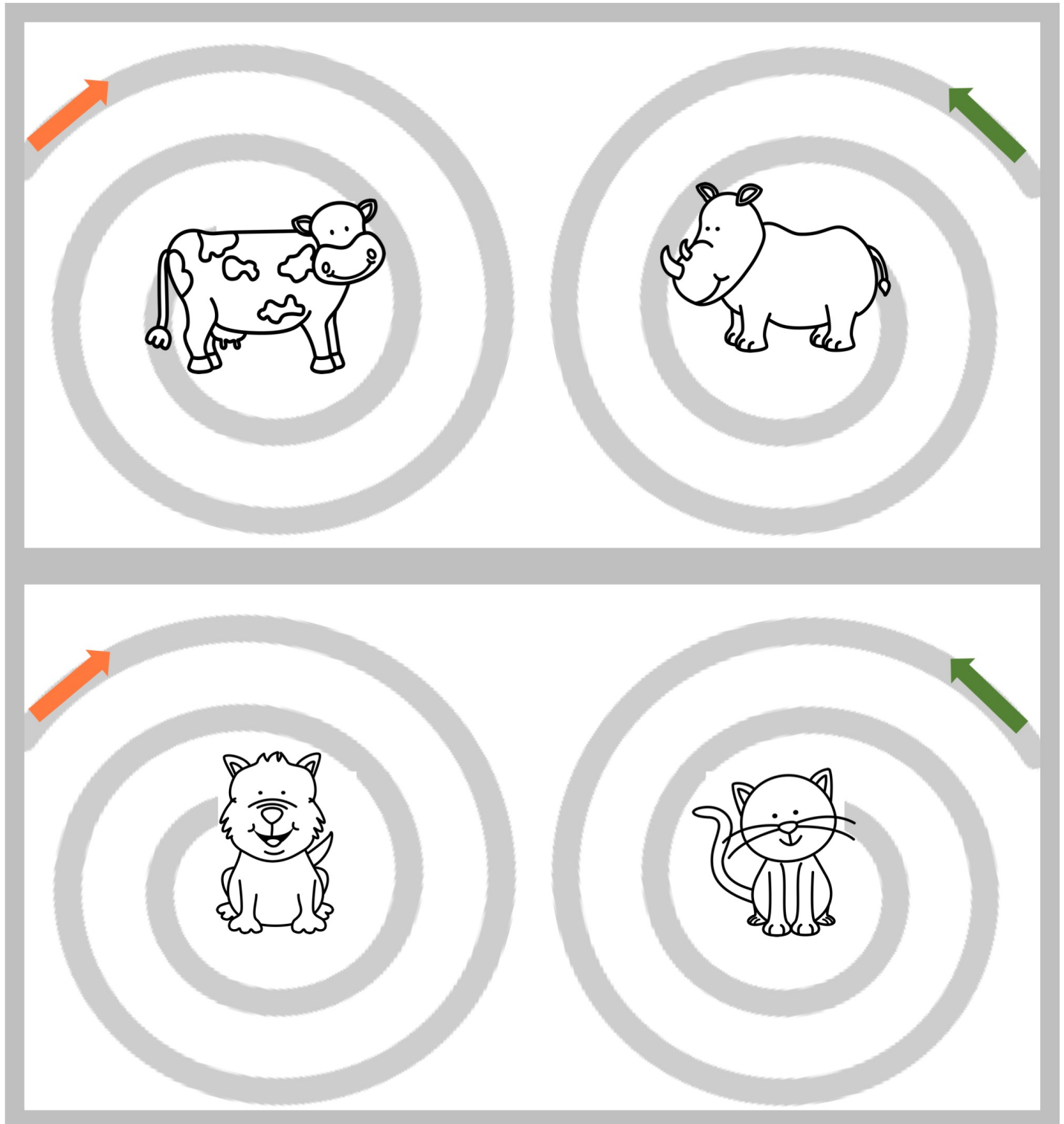
Lefties cut at ORANGE arrows. 



Scissors Skills – Cut Spirals!

Directions: 1- Cut along the dotted line.
2- Make a decorative picture!

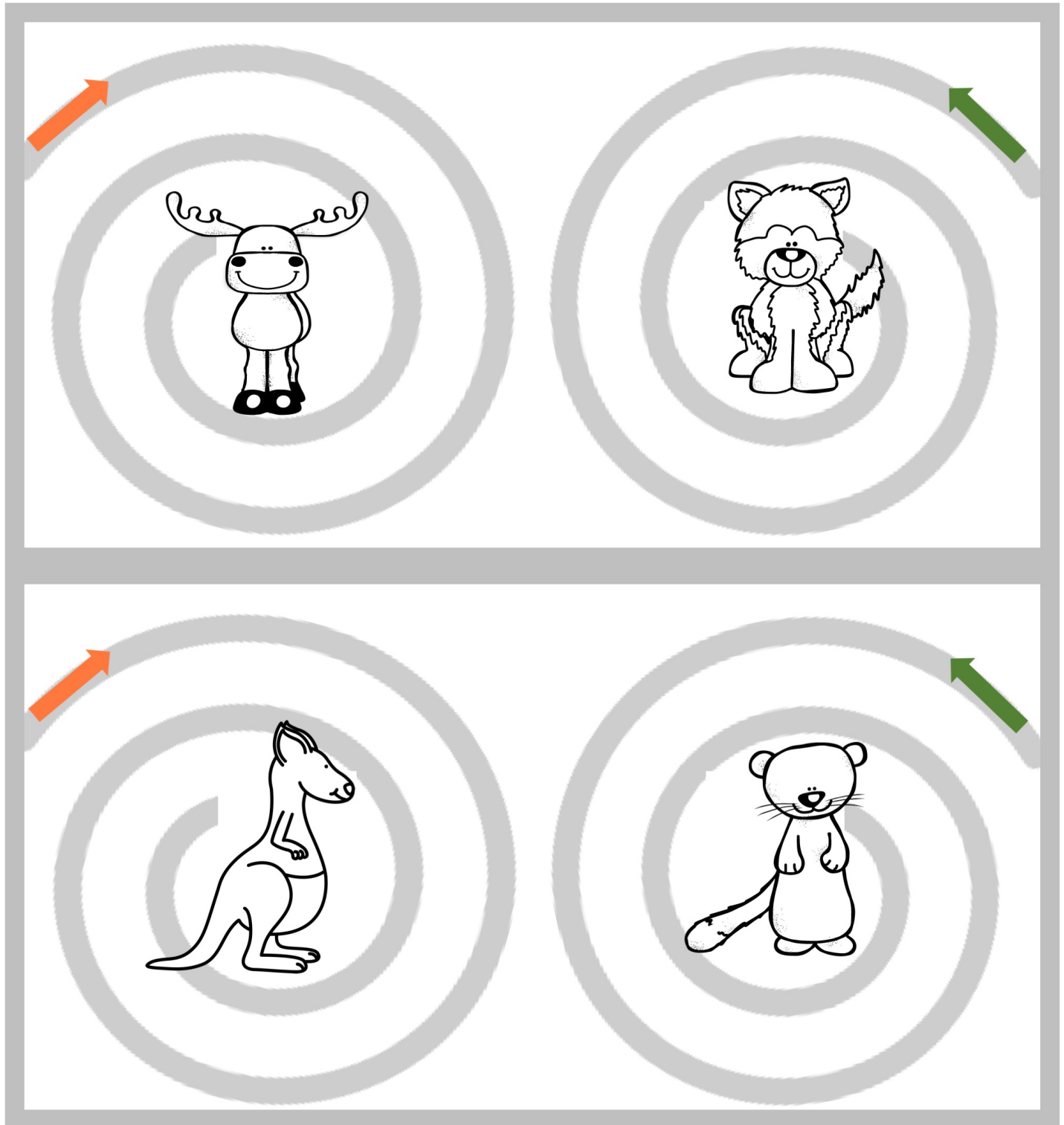
Righties cut at GREEN arrows.  Lefties cut at ORANGE arrows. 



Scissors Skills – Cut Spirals!

Directions: 1- Cut along the dotted line.
2- Make a decorative picture!

Righties cut at GREEN arrows.  Lefties cut at ORANGE arrows. 

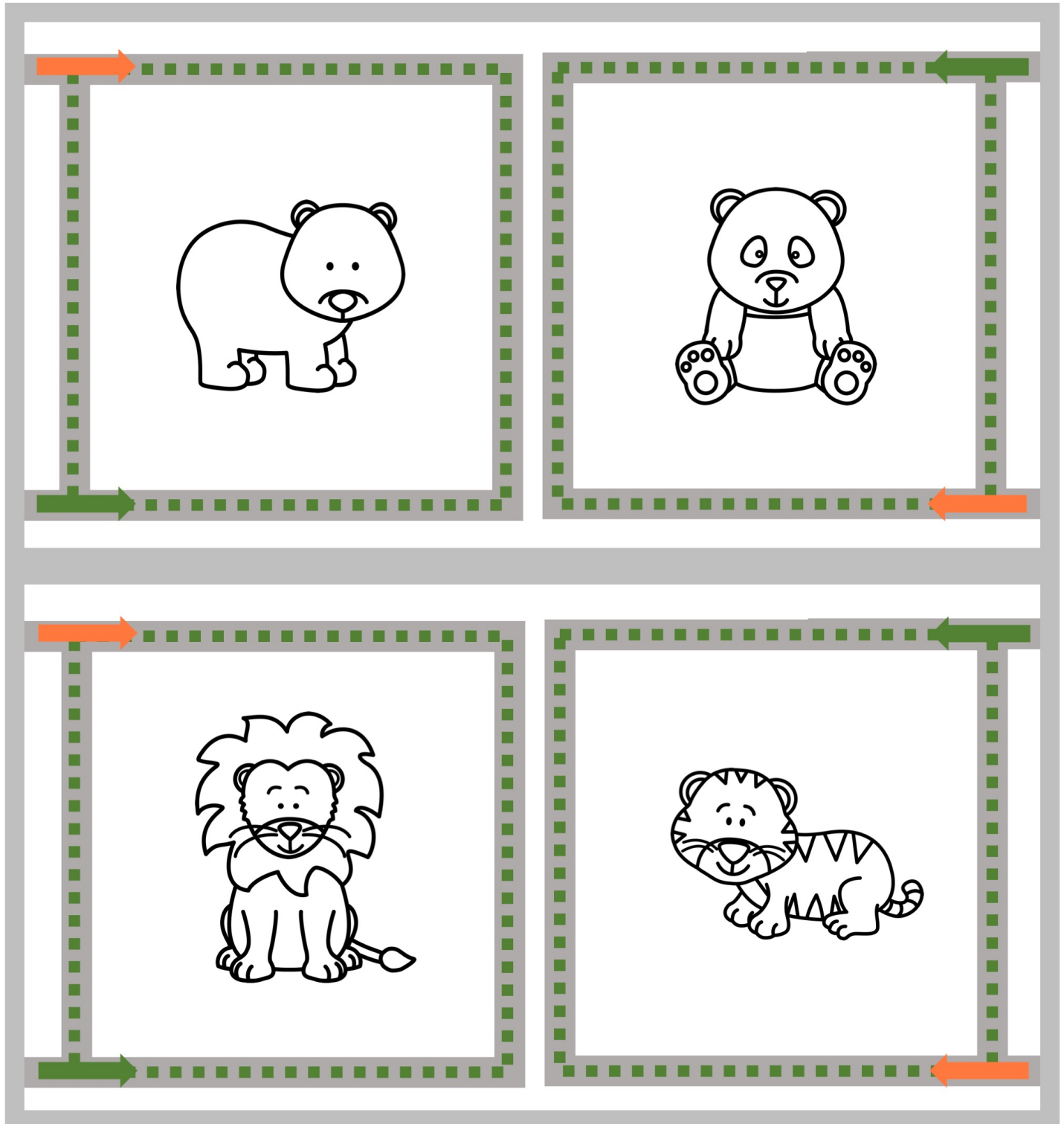


Scissors Skills – Cut Squares!

Directions: 1- Cut along the dotted line.
2- Make a decorative picture!

Righties cut at GREEN arrows. 

Lefties cut at ORANGE arrows. 

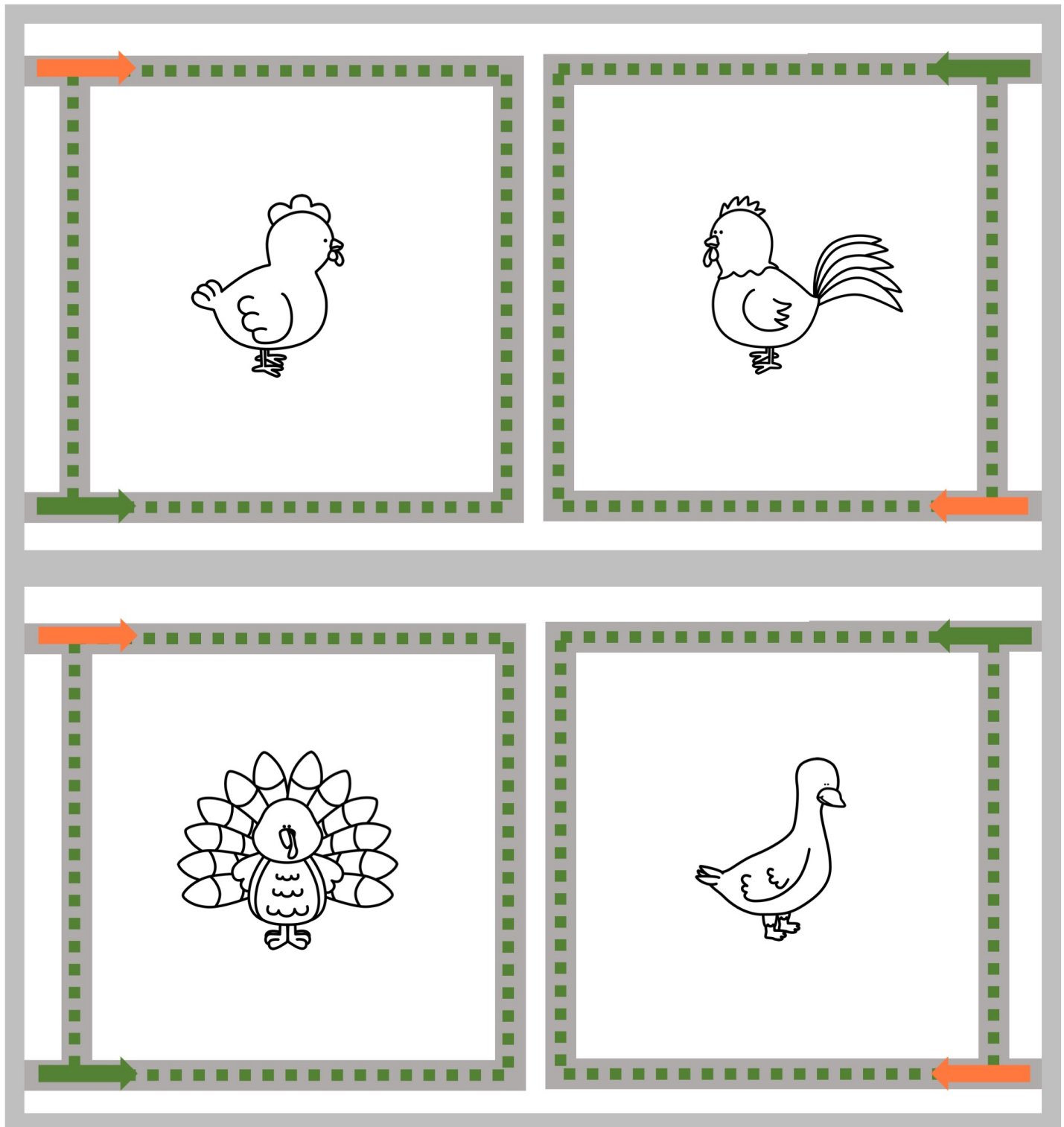


Scissors Skills – Cut Squares!

Directions: 1- Cut along the dotted line.
2- Make a decorative picture!

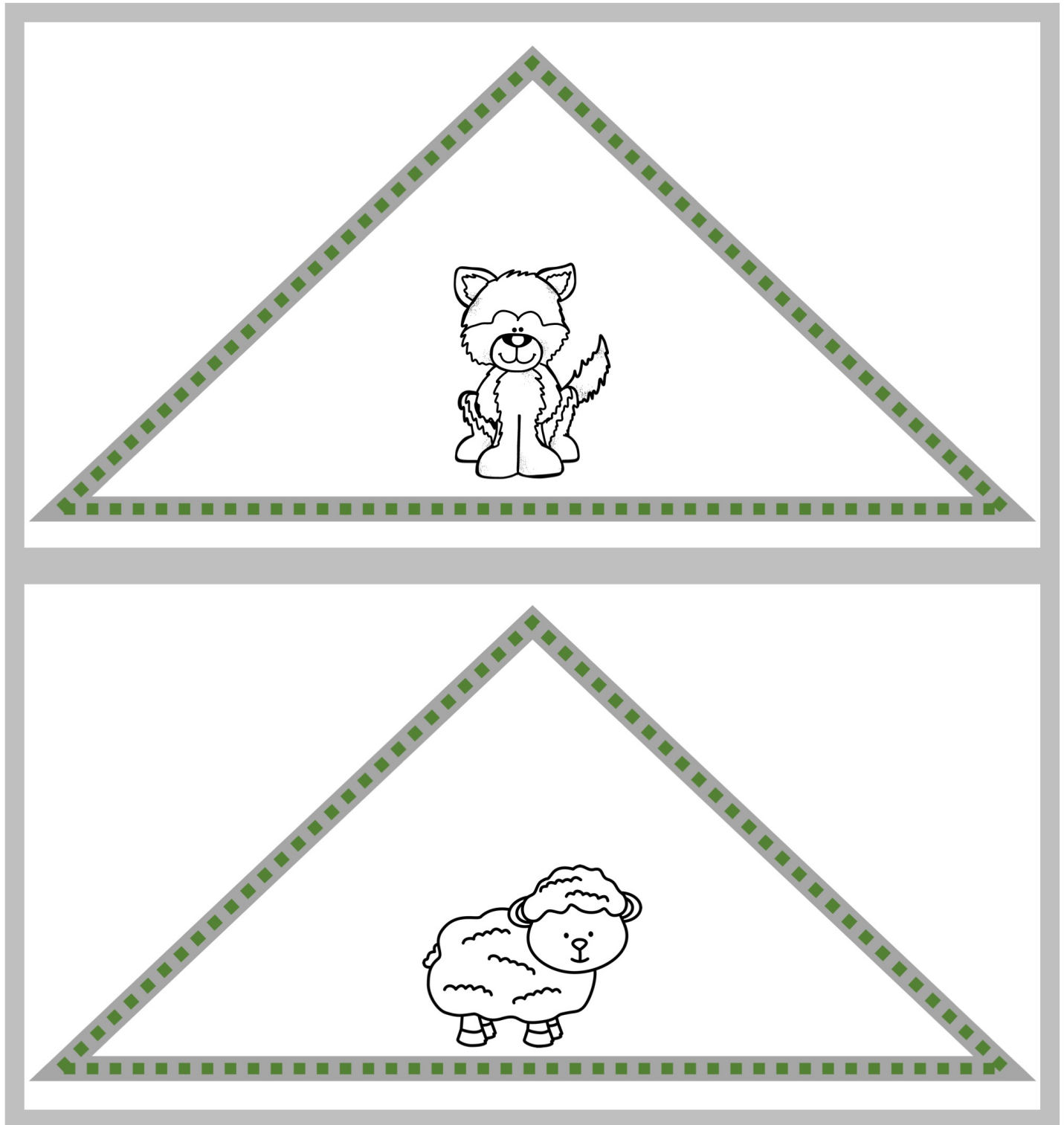
Righties cut at GREEN arrows. 

Lefties cut at ORANGE arrows. 



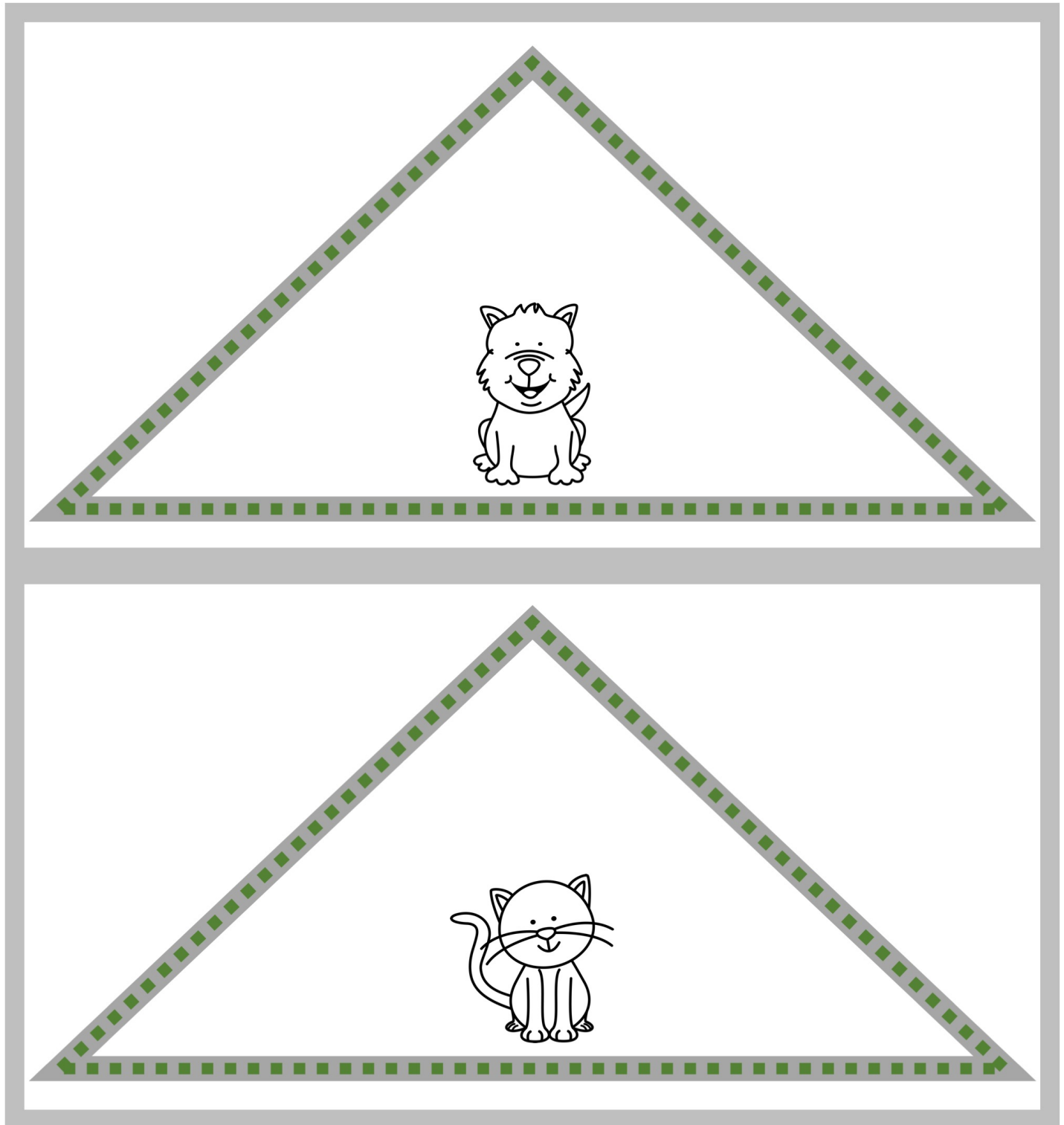
Scissors Skills – Cut Triangles!

Directions: 1- Cut along the dotted line.
2- Make a decorative picture!



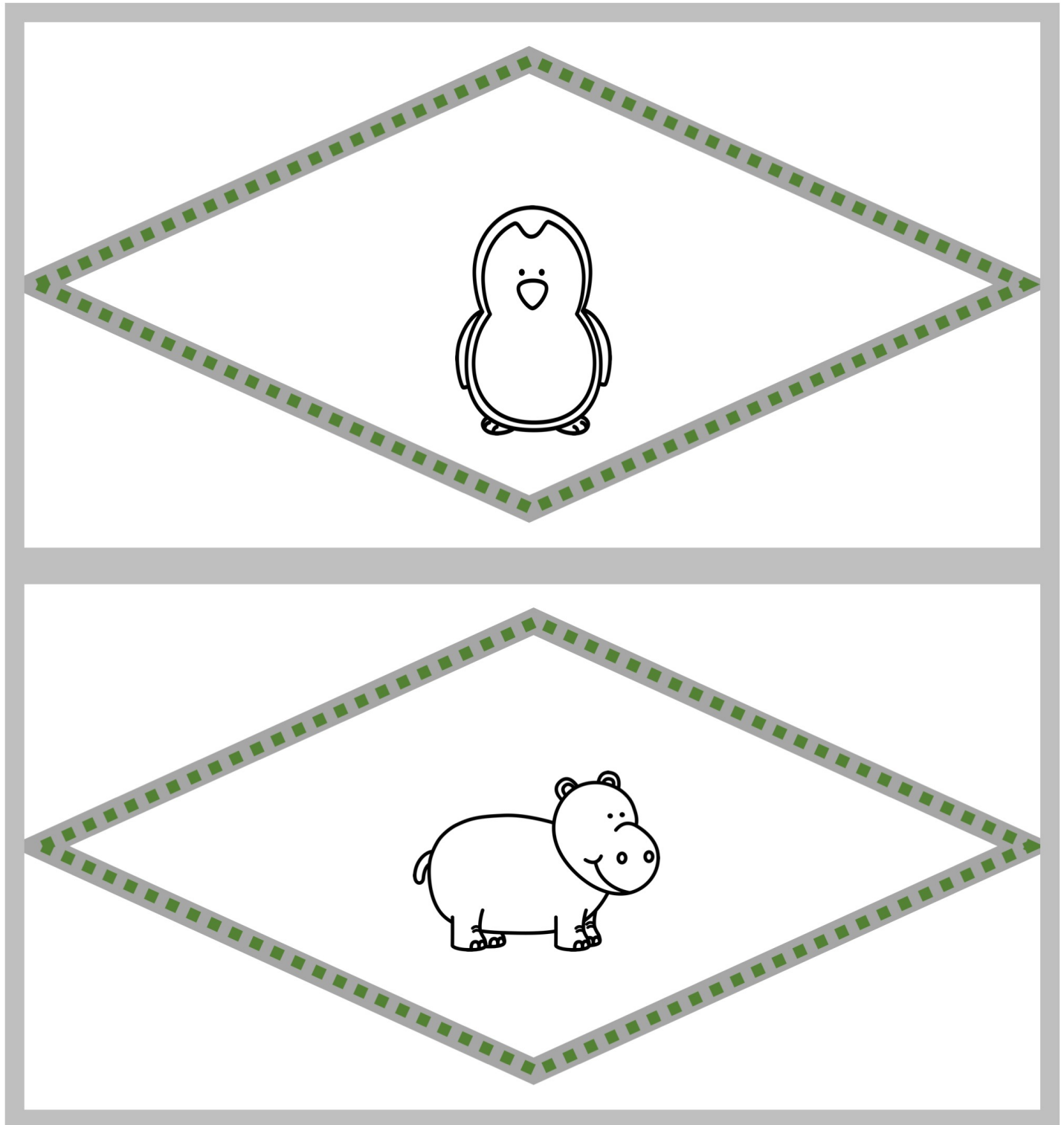
Scissors Skills – Cut Triangles!

Directions: 1- Cut along the dotted line.
2- Make a decorative picture!



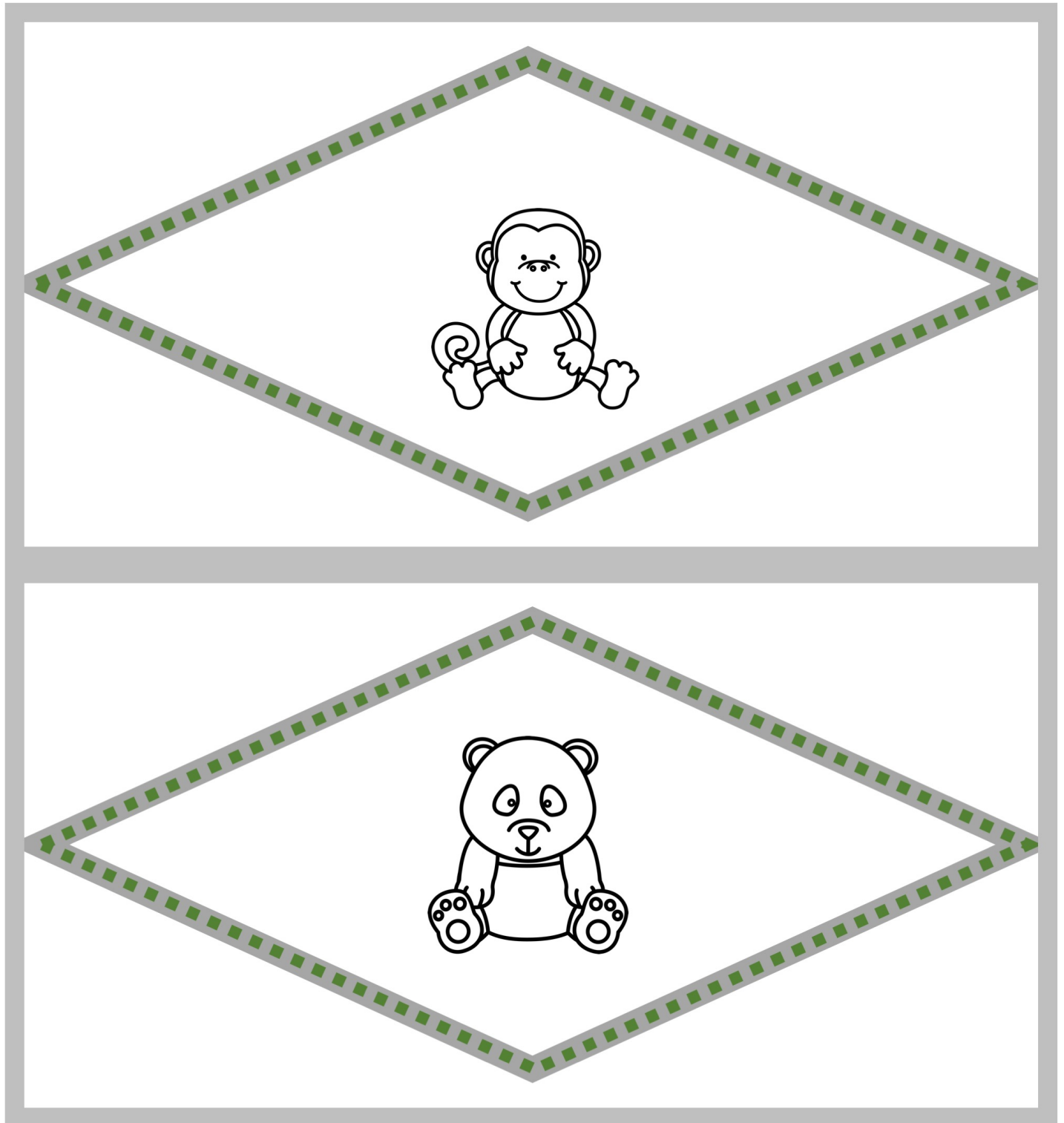
Scissors Skills – Cut Diamonds!

Directions: 1- Cut along the dotted line.
2- Make a decorative picture!



Scissors Skills – Cut Diamonds!

Directions: 1- Cut along the dotted line.
2- Make a decorative picture!

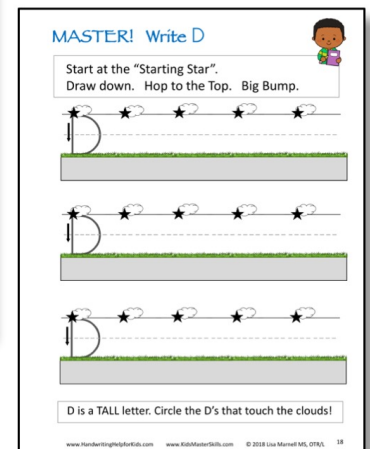
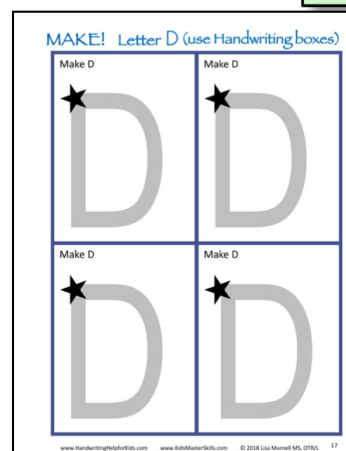
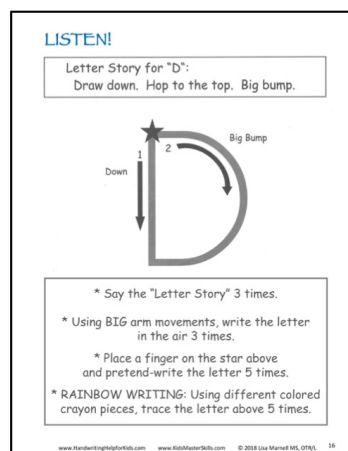
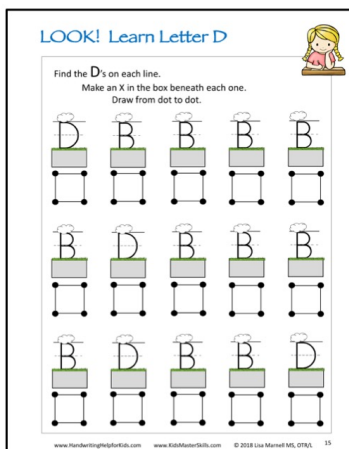


More Resources from Kids Master Skills:

My Kindergarten Handwriting program teaches upper and lower case letters. This hands-on, novel approach uses the sequence called, "LOOK" "LISTEN" "MAKE" "MASTER" to guide children. It includes two workbooks, each 145 pages long.

What is "LOOK" "LISTEN" "MAKE" "MASTER"?

- 1- **"LOOK"**: In this first step children recognize specific letters and identify their visual details. On this page children practice visual perception and visual motor skills. This teaches them to notice the details about a letter. Is it tall or small? Does it have diagonal lines or straight lines? This helps build handwriting skills.
- 2- **"LISTEN"**: Children learn a simple "Letter Story" for how to form letters. Auditory skills help kids remember proper letter formation.
- 3- **"MAKE"**: Hands-on multi-sensory practice reinforces the kinesthetic "feel" for a letter. This step also provides fine motor practice, so important for handwriting. Using "letter cards" that an adult cuts out, kids make the letter they are learning. There are 4 options for hands-on activities.
- 4- **"MASTER"**: Once a child has completed the three steps above, he is ready to try writing!
 - * Practice writing the new letter on this page.
 - * Follow directions at the bottom of the page to master differences between TALL, SMALL, and FALL letters.



AVAILABLE at
www.KidsMasterSkills.com

About the Author/Contact

Find Lisa Marnell & *Kids Master Skills* Online!

Websites: www.KidsMasterSkills.com and www.HandwritingHelpforKids.com

"Today's Foundation is Tomorrow's Success!"

Our website is building a wealth of information and activities to help kids master skills.

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Teachers Pay Teachers



@KidsMasterSkills

About the Author: Lisa Marnell MS, OTR/L KidsMasterSkills@gmail.com



In 1997 I graduated from Tufts University with a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy. Prior to that, I completed an MBA at McGill University in Montreal (my hometown!) I am beyond happy that I became an OTR and that I have had the opportunity to work with so many wonderful kids and teachers!

My philosophy in regards to helping kids master skills is simple, but important: Children should be engaged and motivated by therapeutic and/or teaching activities. In other words, learning should be fun!

Thank you for purchasing this resource. I sincerely hope that it proves useful in supporting and promoting your students' skills. Please let me know!

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