

Let's Learn to **CUT**

- Meets national standards for early childhood
- Builds fine motor skills and teaches basic skills through fun cutting and pasting activities
- Includes step-by-step lessons that increase in difficulty
- Features detailed parent instructions along with simple directions for children



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Welcome to the *Let's Learn Series*

The early years of your child's life are the most critical for development—both cognitively and physically. It is important that you nurture your child's growing interest in the world around him or her. It is also essential to prepare your child with the basic skills and fine motor skills necessary for the school years ahead. Basic skills include concepts such as the alphabet, numbers, colors, and shapes. Fine motor skills are movements that are produced by small muscles or muscle groups. Children in preschool spend a lot of their day developing these muscles in their hands. Developed motor skills are the key to success in school.

Young children learn best when they are actively involved in the learning process. *Let's Learn to Cut* features whimsical hands-on activities that children will love to complete. Learning to control scissors will help your child develop fine motor skills, which are also an important part of brain development. Movement helps the organization of the brain. It reinforces growth and builds connections between different parts of the brain. More connections mean more brain power!



Help your child complete the activities in this book. There are directions for parents and simplified directions for the child. Allow your child to decipher and explore the activity on his or her own, but provide guidance when needed. Encourage your child to be as creative as possible when completing the activities. Most importantly, enjoy working through the book with your child. The time you invest in your child's development is priceless and will reap countless rewards for years to come.

Introduce your child to *Let's Learn to Cut* today and watch him or her succeed tomorrow!

Safety First

When you introduce scissors to your child for the first time, it is important that you explain the guidelines for safety.

- Your child should not run when he or she is holding scissors.
- When walking with scissors, your child should keep the tip of the scissors pointed toward the floor.
- Your child should only use scissors to cut paper.
- You should store scissors in a safe place where they are out of your child's reach.

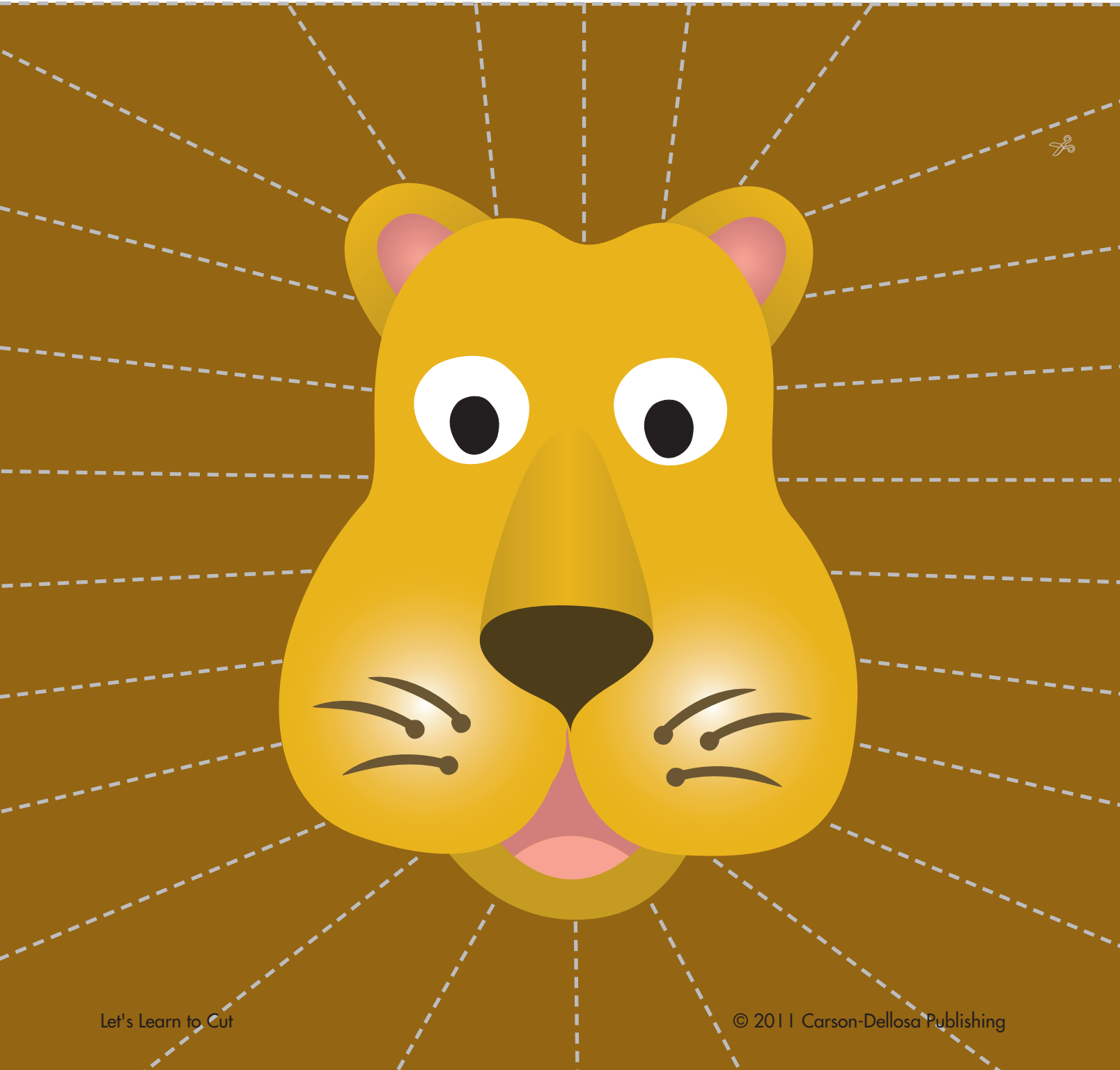


Leo the Lion

Skill: Cutting a straight line

Directions: Your child will cut along the dotted lines in this picture to make a handsome mane for Leo the Lion!

Cut a straight line.



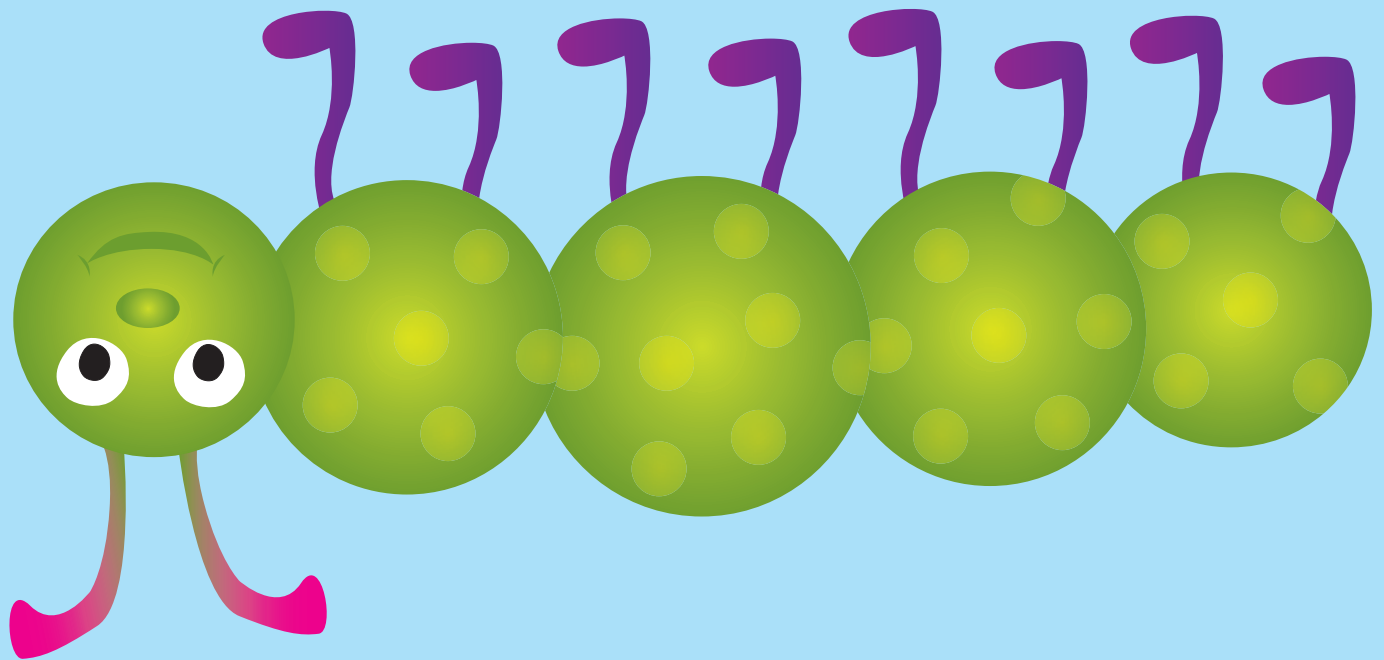
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Cha-Cha Charlie

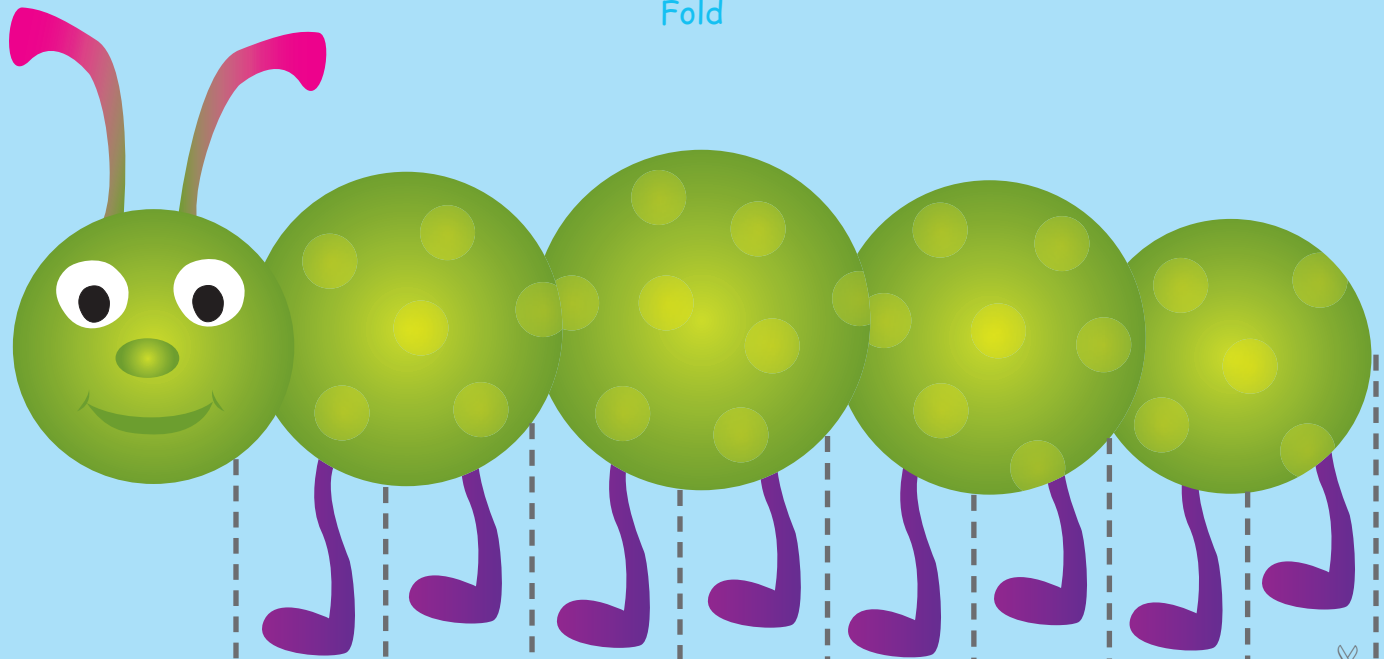
Skill: Cutting a straight line

Directions: Help your child fold the paper on the blue line. Then, help your child cut along the dotted lines to separate Charlie's legs so he can do the cha-cha.

Cut a straight line.



Fold



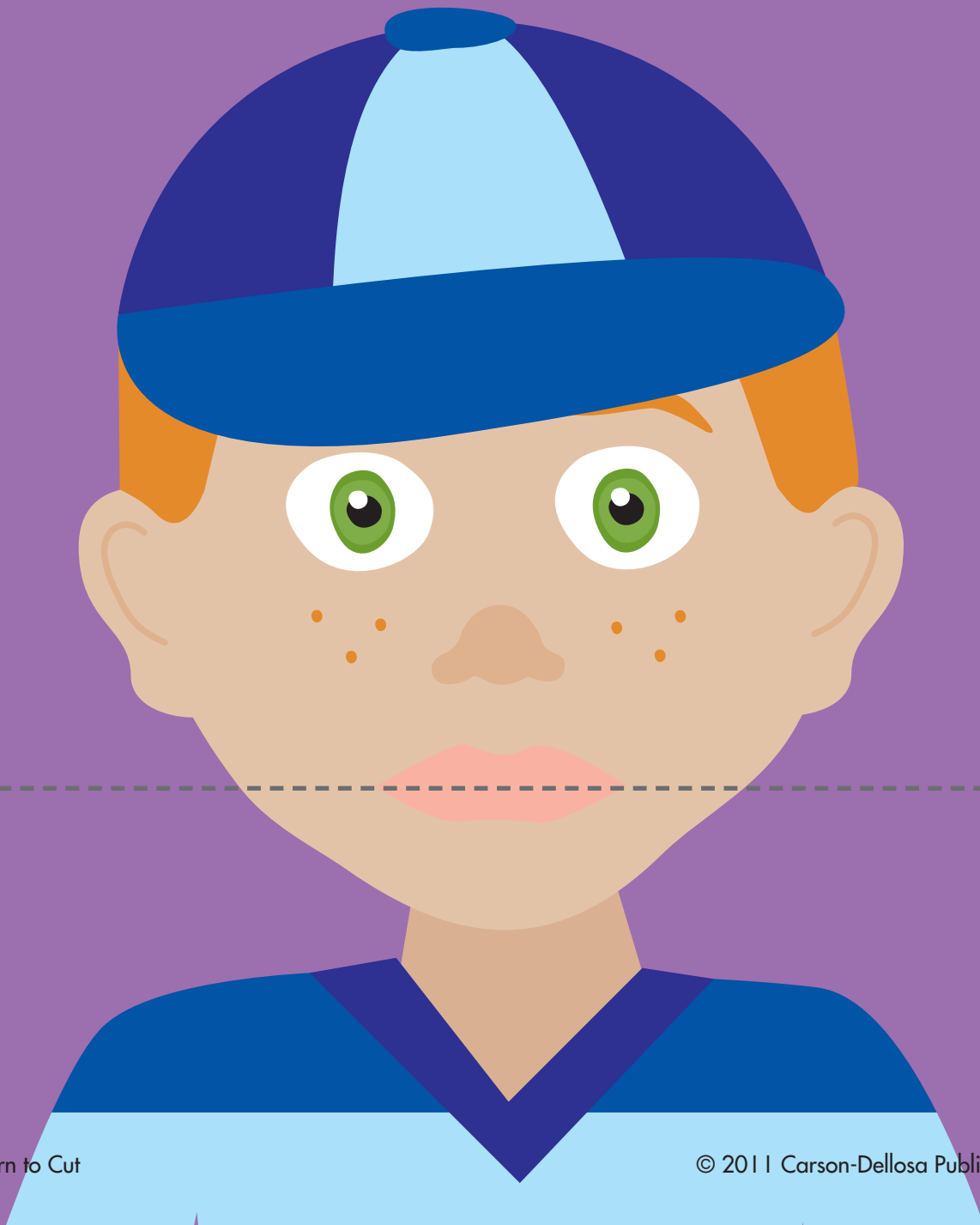
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Hungry Harry

Skill: Cutting a straight line

Directions: Your child will cut along the dotted line. Then, he or she will glue the top of the picture to the bottom of a paper lunch sack and the bottom under the fold of the sack. Your child can open and close the bag to make Harry chew.

Cut a straight line.



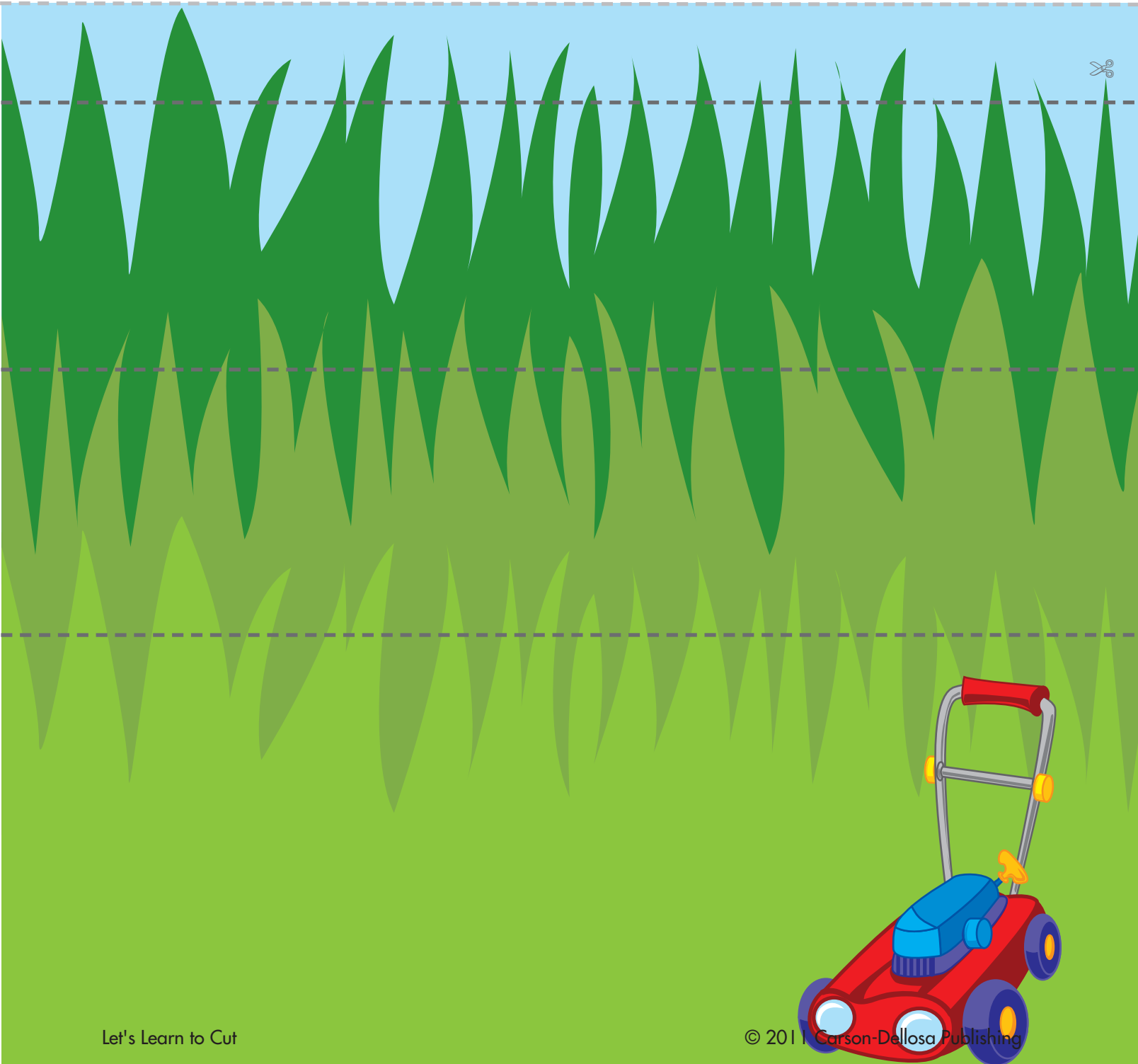
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Mow the Lawn

Skill: Cutting a straight line

Directions: Tell your child to pretend that his or her scissors are a lawn mower. Cut along the dotted lines in this picture to mow the lawn. See page 61 for a fun extension activity.

Cut a straight line.



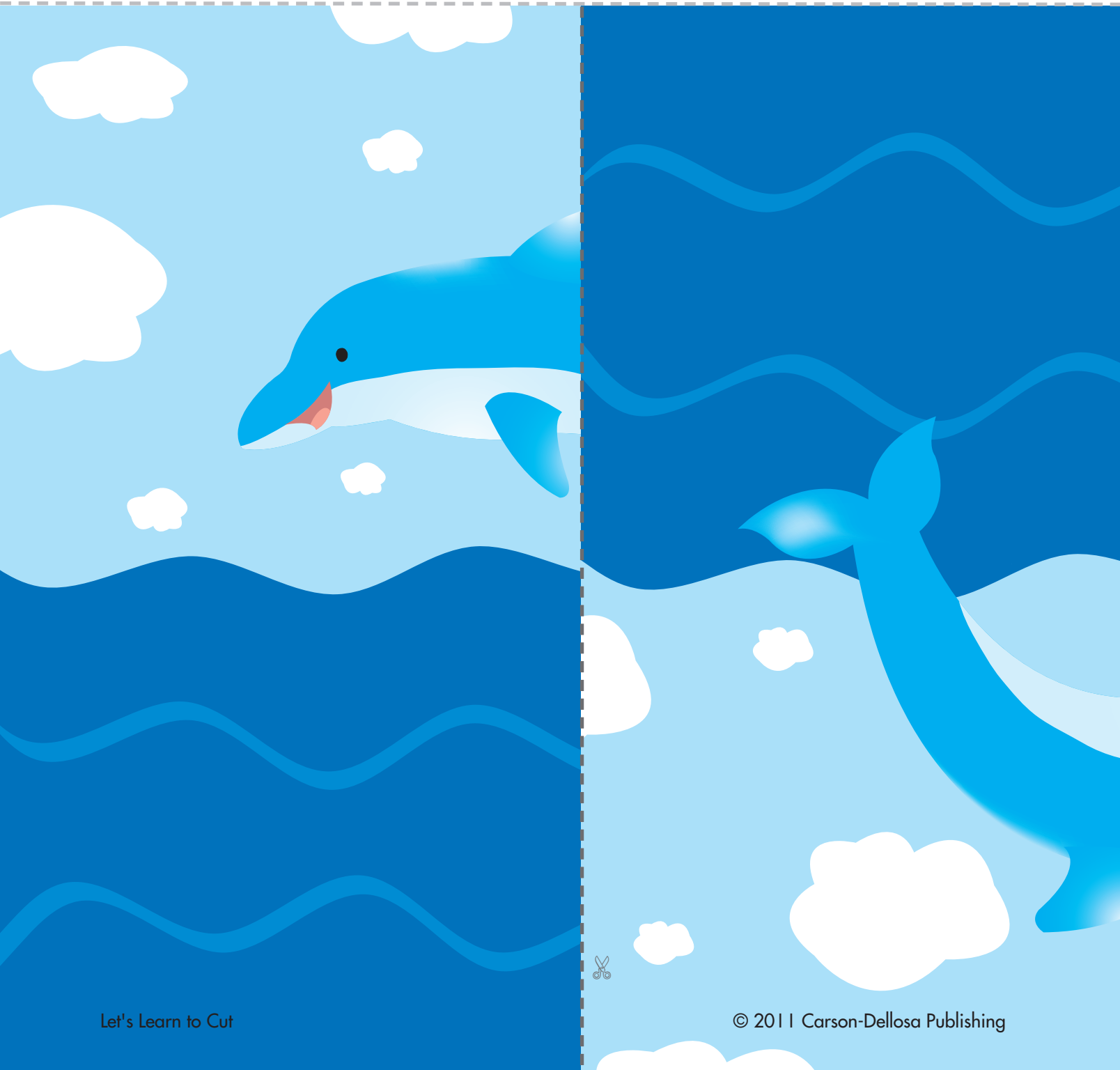
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Diving Dolphin Puzzle

Skill: Cutting a straight line

Directions: Your child will cut along the dotted lines. Then, your child will put the pieces together to make a fun picture.

Cut a straight line.



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Coaster Climb

Skill: Cutting a diagonal line

Directions: Encourage your child to pretend that his or her scissors are climbing to the top of the roller coaster hill. Your child will “ride” the roller coaster from one edge of the paper to another.

Cut a diagonal line.



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Downhill Delight

Skill: Cutting a diagonal line

Directions: Tell your child to pretend his or her scissors are a sled. Your child will ride his or her “sled” down the hill on a diagonal line.

Cut a diagonal line.



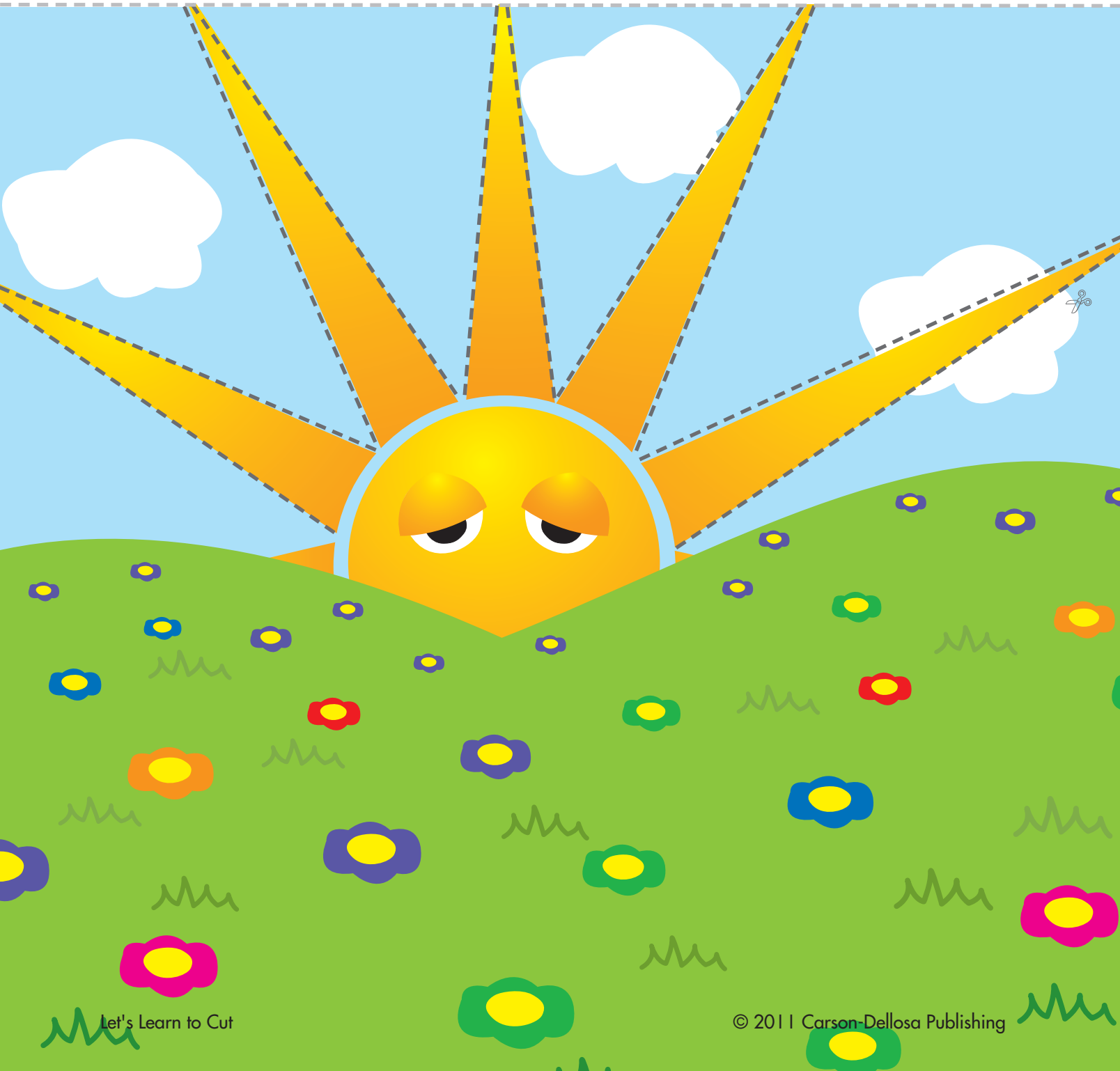
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Sleepy Sunset

Skill: Cutting a diagonal line

Directions: Your child will cut along the dotted lines to make the rays of a beautiful sunset. Show your child how to turn the paper so that the diagonal line is easier to cut.

Cut a diagonal line.



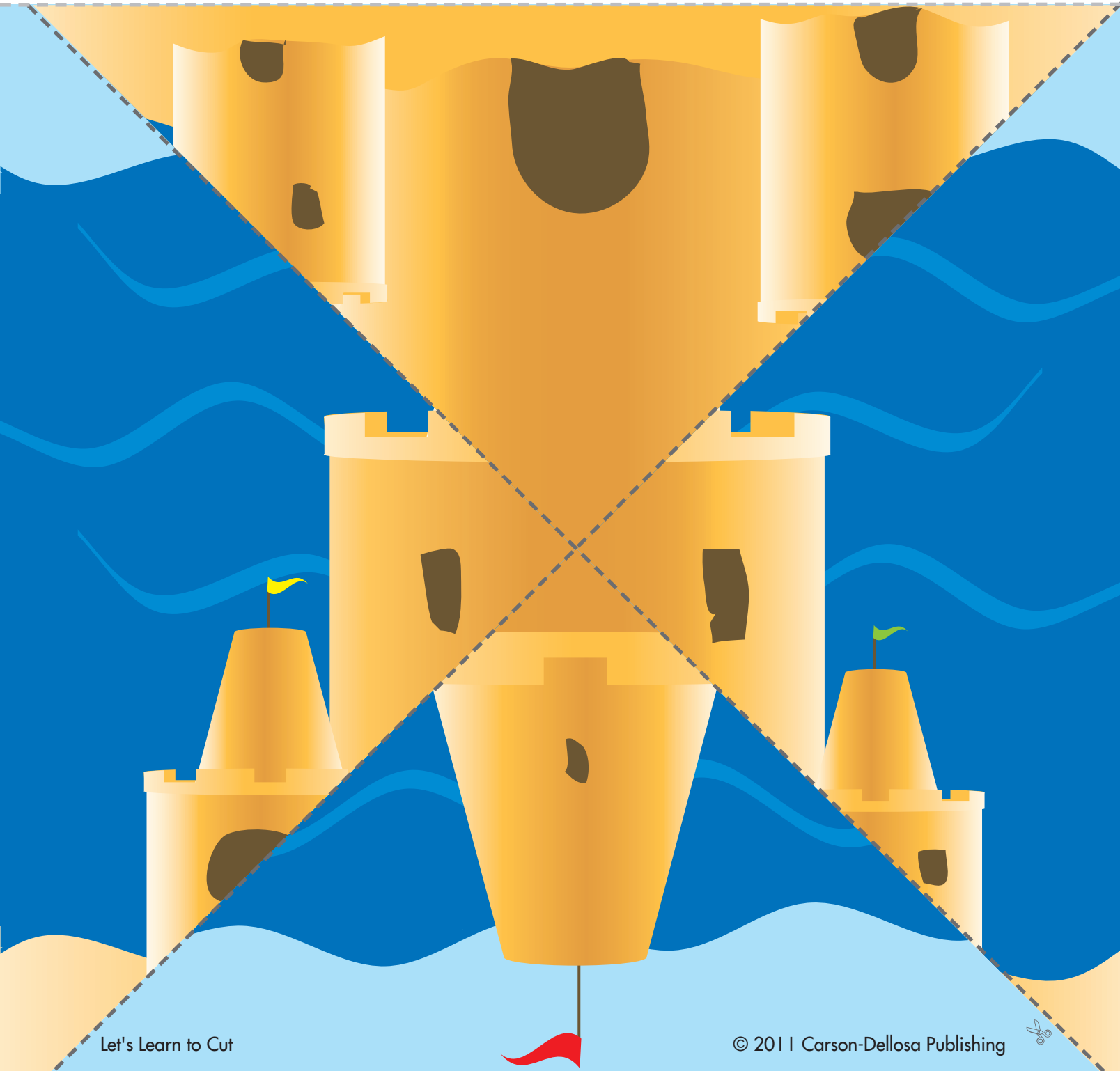
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Sand Castle Puzzle

Skill: Cutting a diagonal line

Directions: Your child will cut along the dotted lines in this picture and then put the pieces together to make a picture.

Cut a diagonal line.



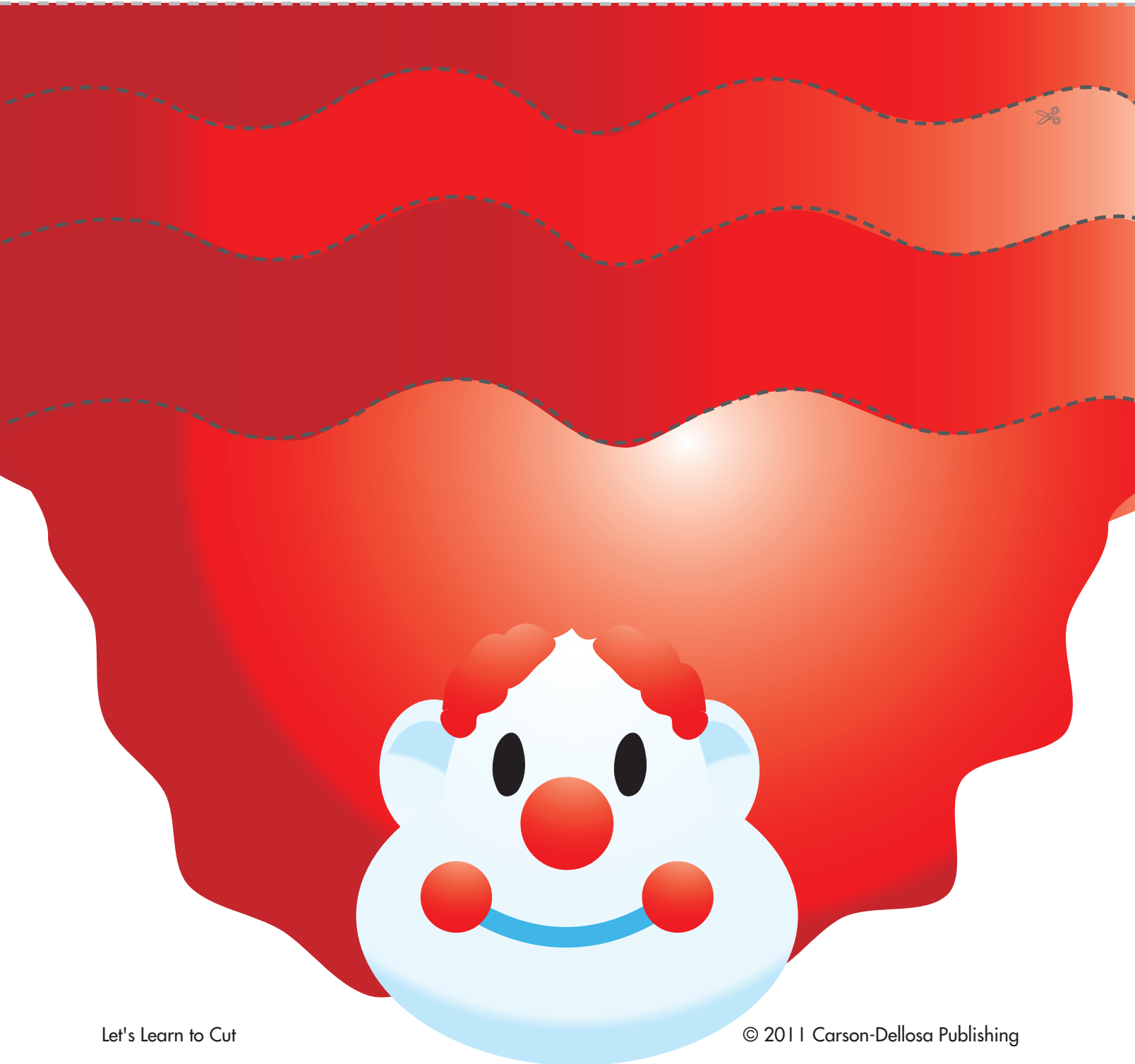
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Bobo Goes to the Barber

Skill: Cutting a curved line

Directions: Help your child cut along the dotted lines to give Bobo a haircut. This is a good time to introduce your child to size words like *short*, *shorter*, and *shortest*.

Cut a curved line.



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Where is Panda?

Skill: Cutting a curved line

Directions: Your child will cut along the curved, dotted lines in this picture. Put the wavy grass in front of the panda to play hide and seek with the panda.

Cut a curved line.



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Treasure Hunt

Skill: Cutting a curved line

Directions: Your child will use scissors to cut the path to get to the treasure chest. Show your child how to turn the paper as he or she cuts around curves.

Cut a curved line.



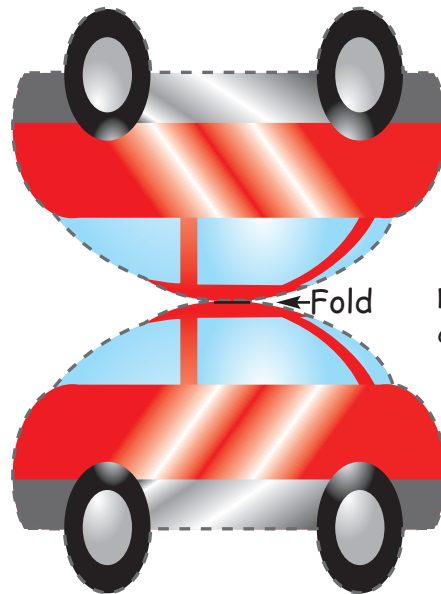
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Rolling Road

Skill: Cutting a curved line

Directions: Your child will cut along the dotted lines in this picture. Then, he or she will tape the sections together to make a winding road. Your child can use the car to take a drive!

Cut a curved line.



Note: Adult, please cut out the car.



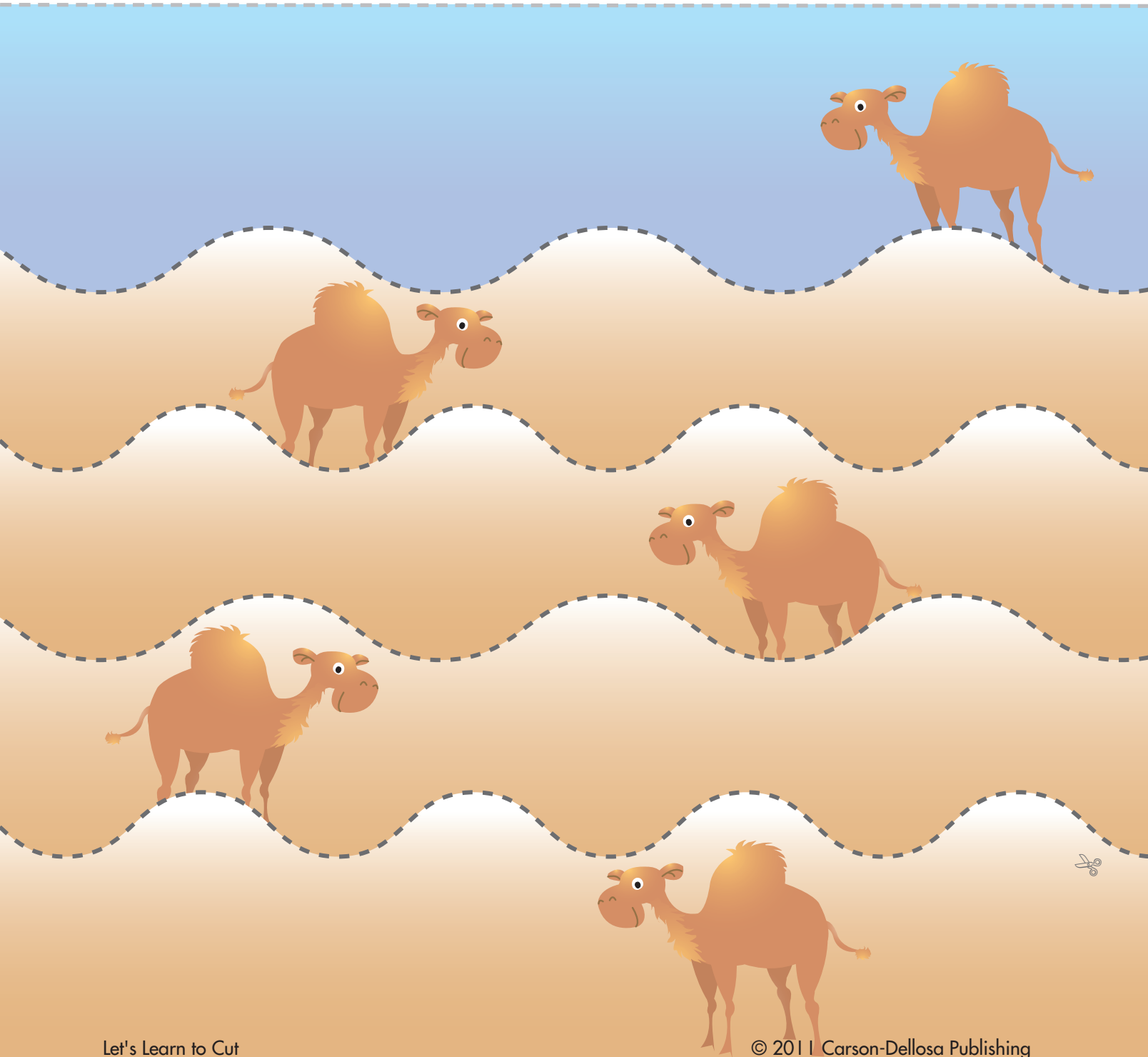
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Sand Dunes

Skill: Cutting a curved line

Directions: Your child will pretend that his or her scissors are a camel walking across the desert as he or she cuts the dotted lines in this picture.

Cut a curved line.



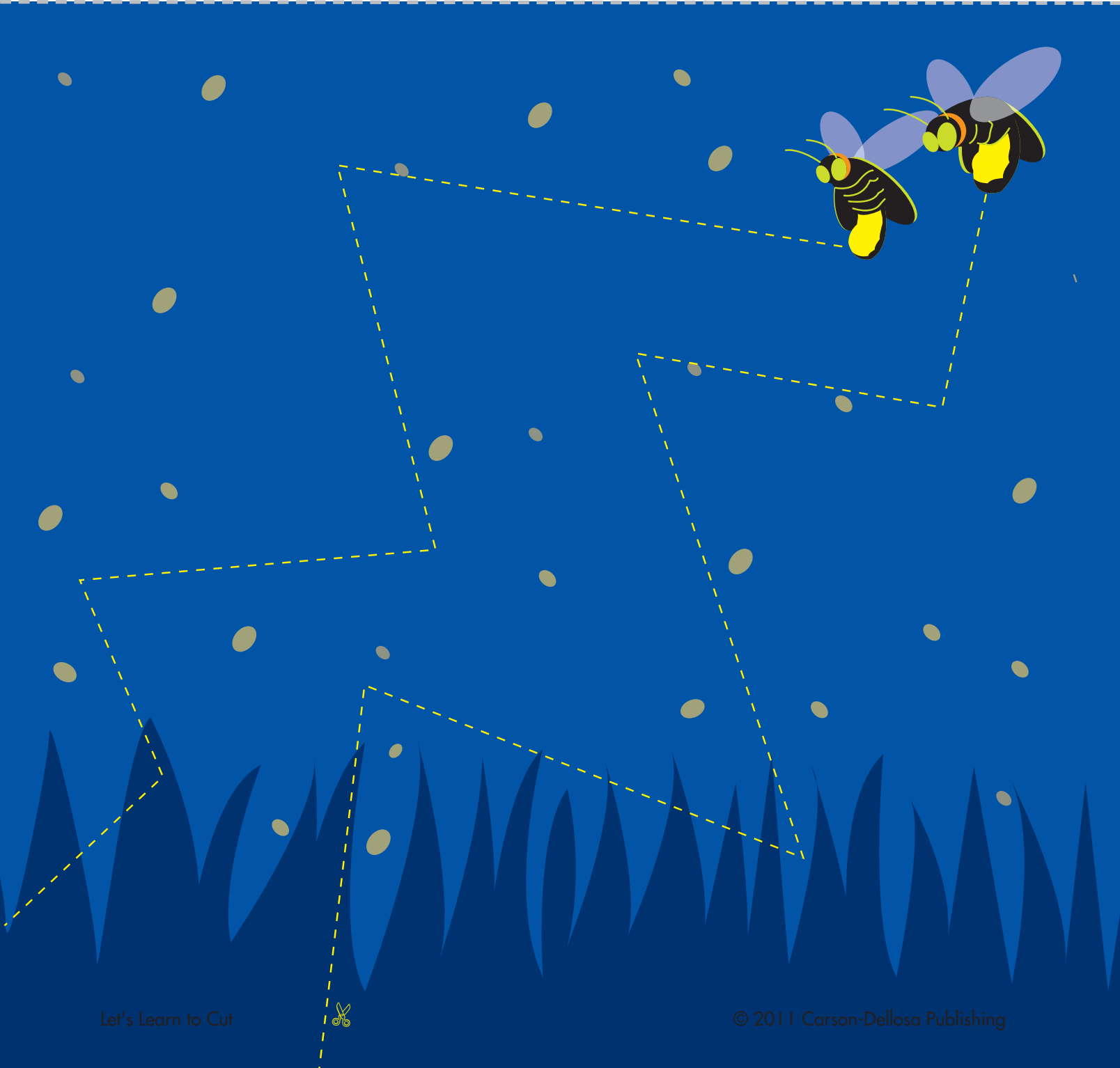
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Follow the Fireflies

Skill: Cutting a zigzag line

Directions: Your child can use his or her scissors to chase the fireflies along a zigzag path. Show your child how to turn the paper as he or she cuts the sharp corners of a zigzag line.

Cut a zigzag line.



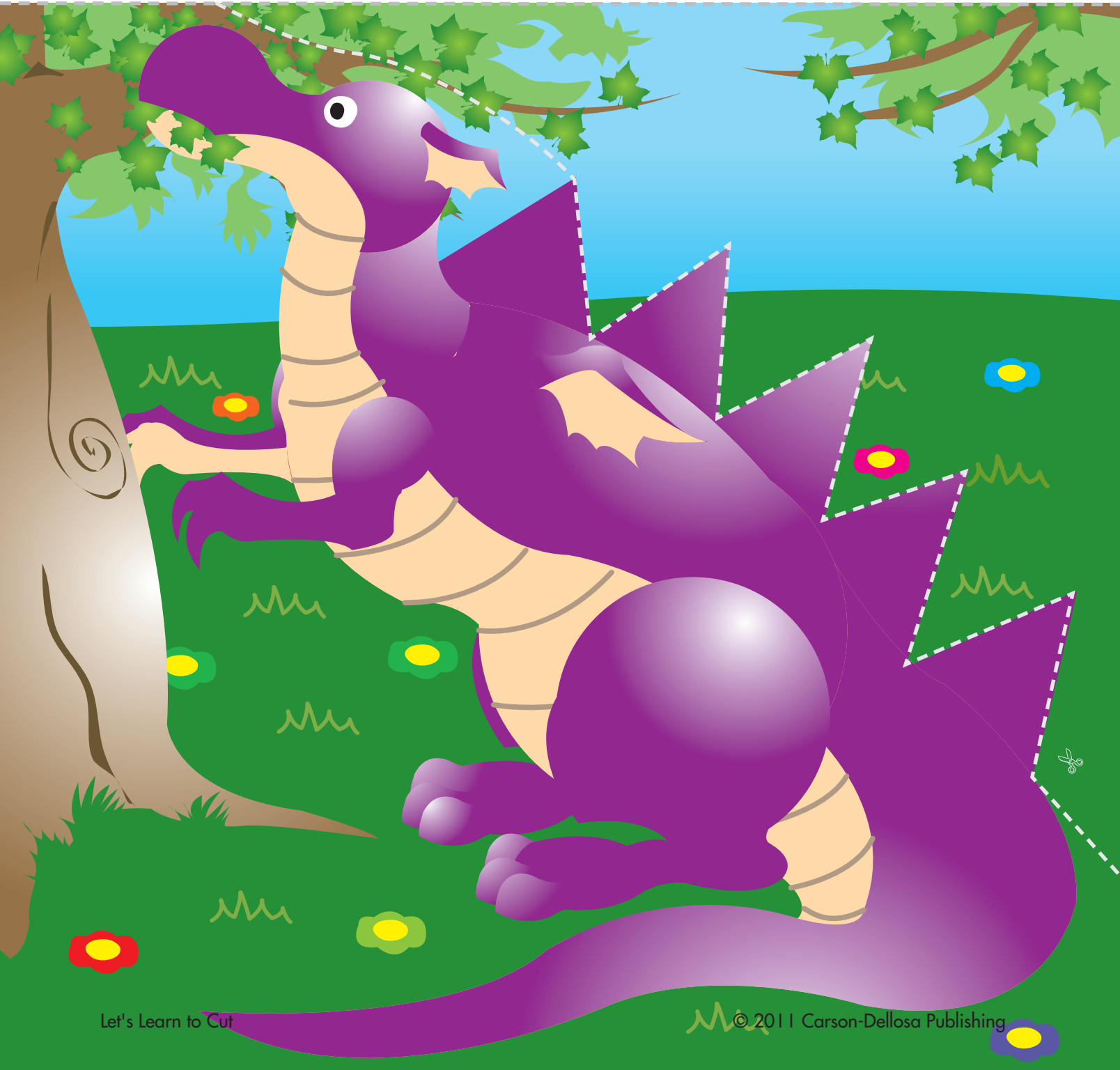
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Darling Dragon

Skill: Cutting a zigzag line

Directions: Your child will cut the dotted lines in this picture to make a friendly dragon. Create a puppet by gluing or taping a craft stick to the back of the dragon.

Cut a zigzag line.



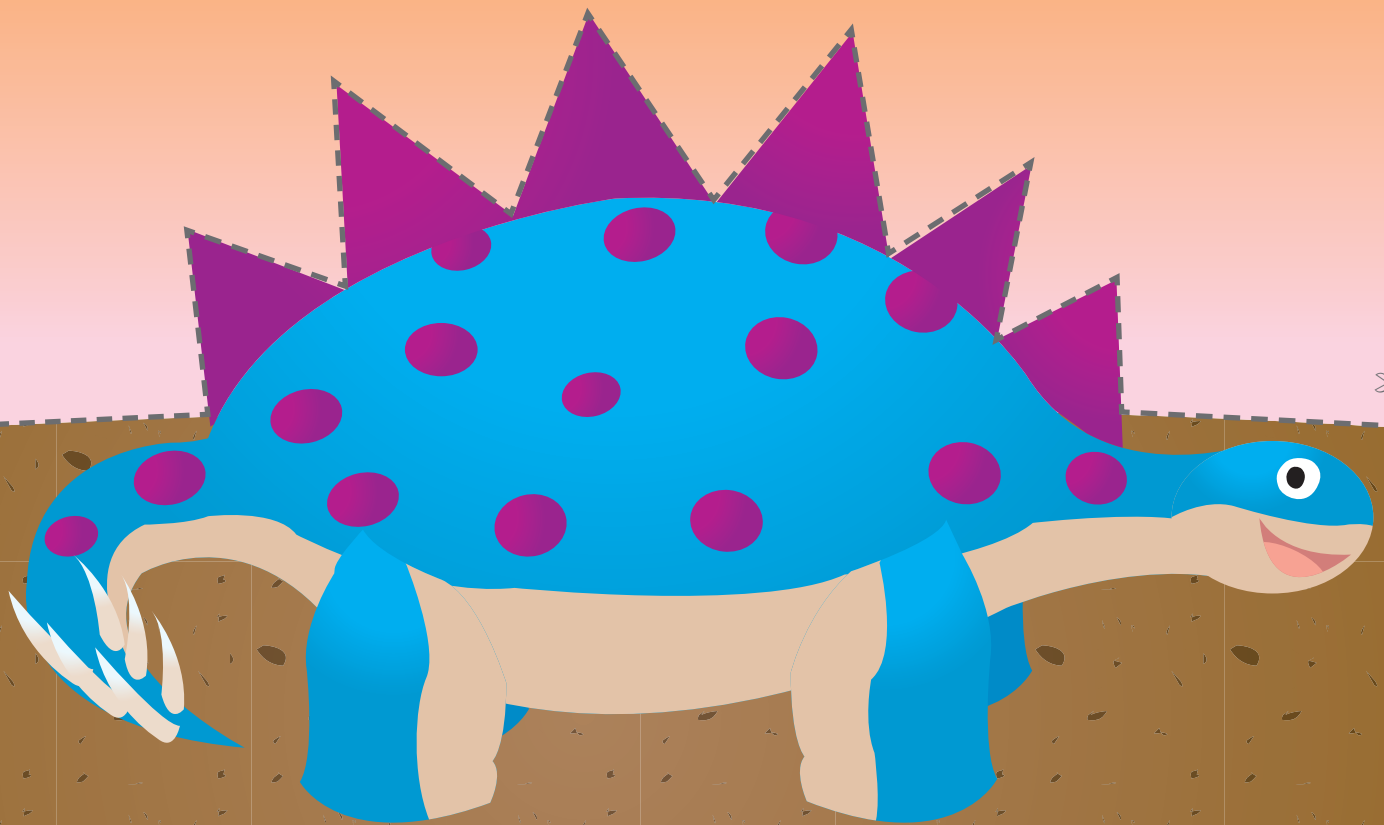
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Steve the Stegosaurus

Skill: Cutting a zigzag line

Directions: Your child will cut along the dotted lines. Help your child count Steve's spikes. Create a puppet by gluing or taping a craft stick to the back of the dinosaur.

Cut a zigzag line.



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Pretty as a Picture

Skill: Cutting a zigzag line

Directions: Your child will cut along the dotted lines to make a beautiful picture frame. Keep the current picture in the frame, or choose another picture for the frame.

Cut a zigzag line.



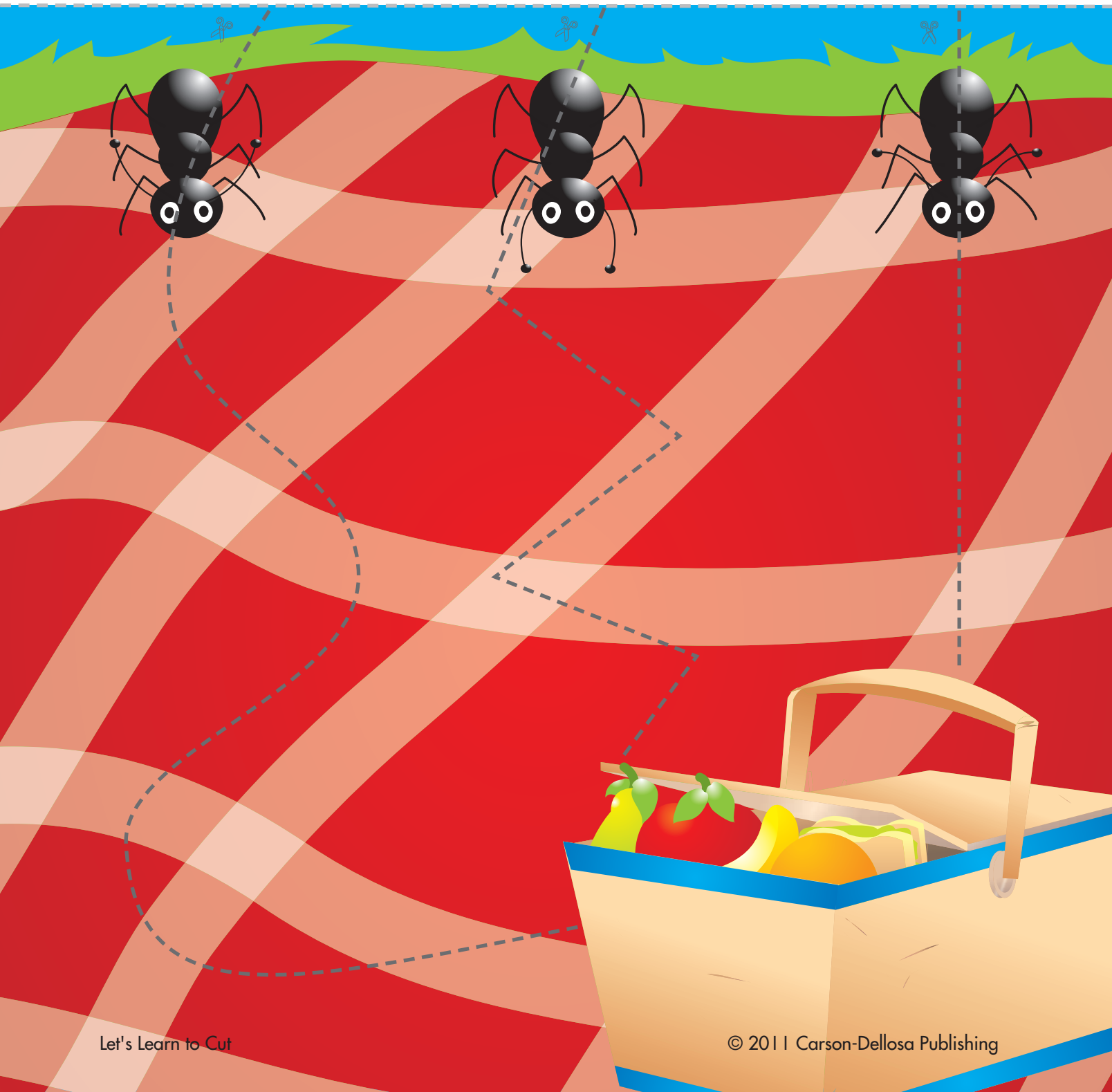
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Army of Ants

Skill: Cutting a straight, curvy, and zigzag line

Directions: Your child will cut along the various paths to help the ants get to the picnic basket.

Cut a straight, curvy, and zigzag line.



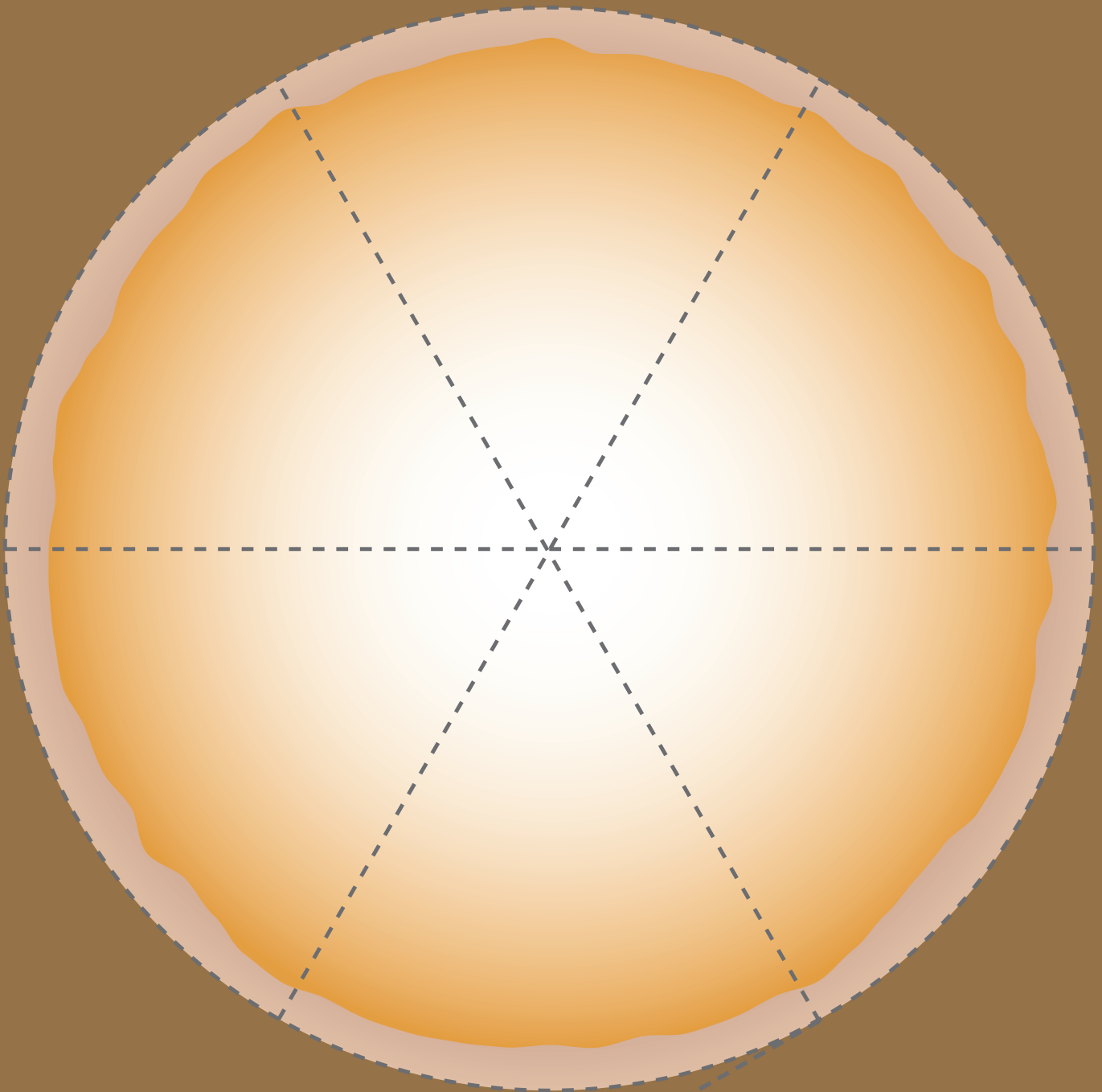
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Pizza Party

Skill: Cutting a circle

Directions: Your child will cut along the dotted lines around the pizza. Remind your child to turn the paper as he or she cuts. Then, he or she can cut the pizza into slices by cutting along the diagonal dotted lines.

Cut a circle.



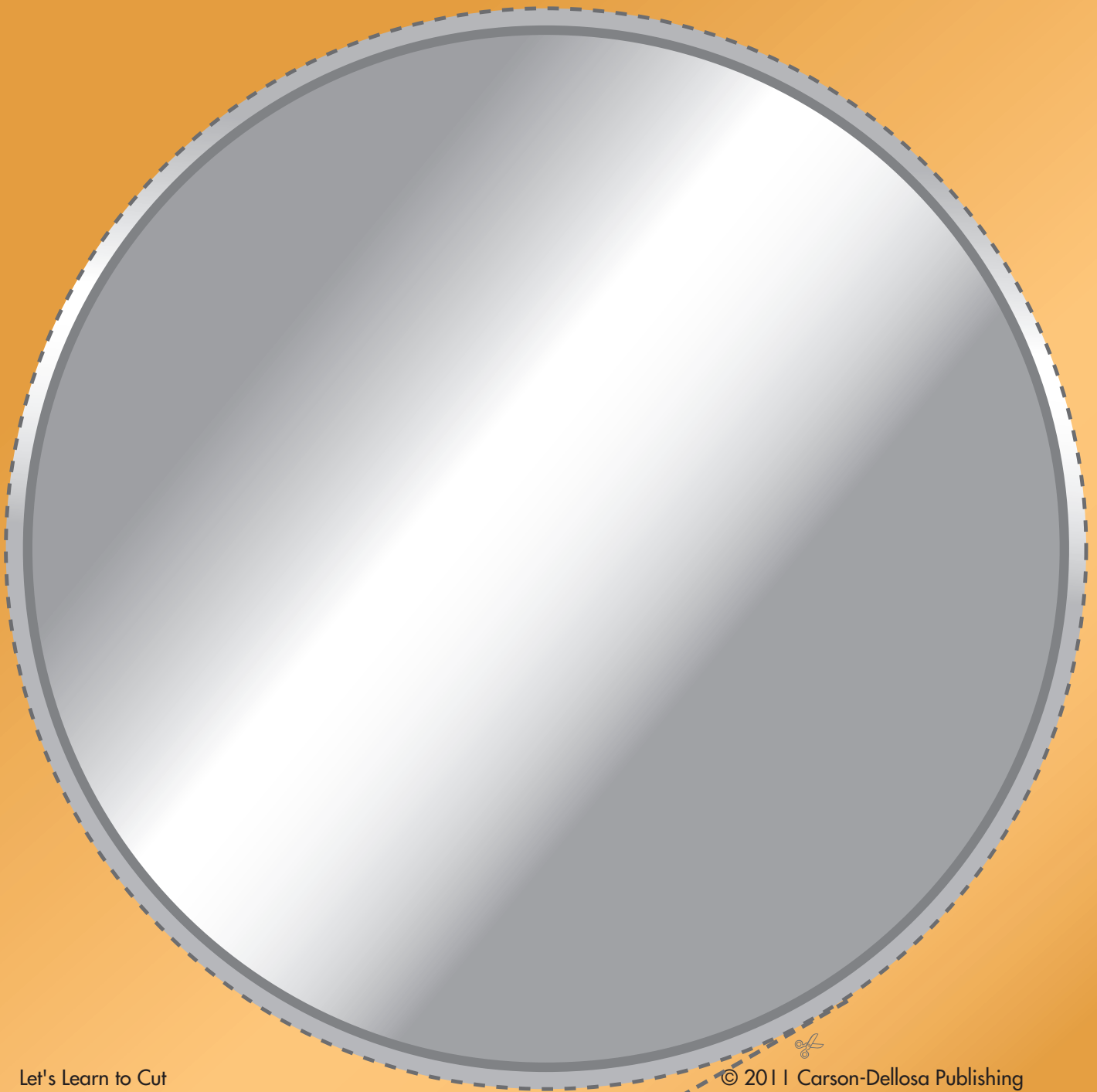
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Pizza Pan

Skill: Cutting a circle

Directions: Your child will cut along the dotted lines around the circle to make a pan for his or her pizza. Adhere the pizza and pan to cardboard to make them sturdier for play.

Cut a circle.



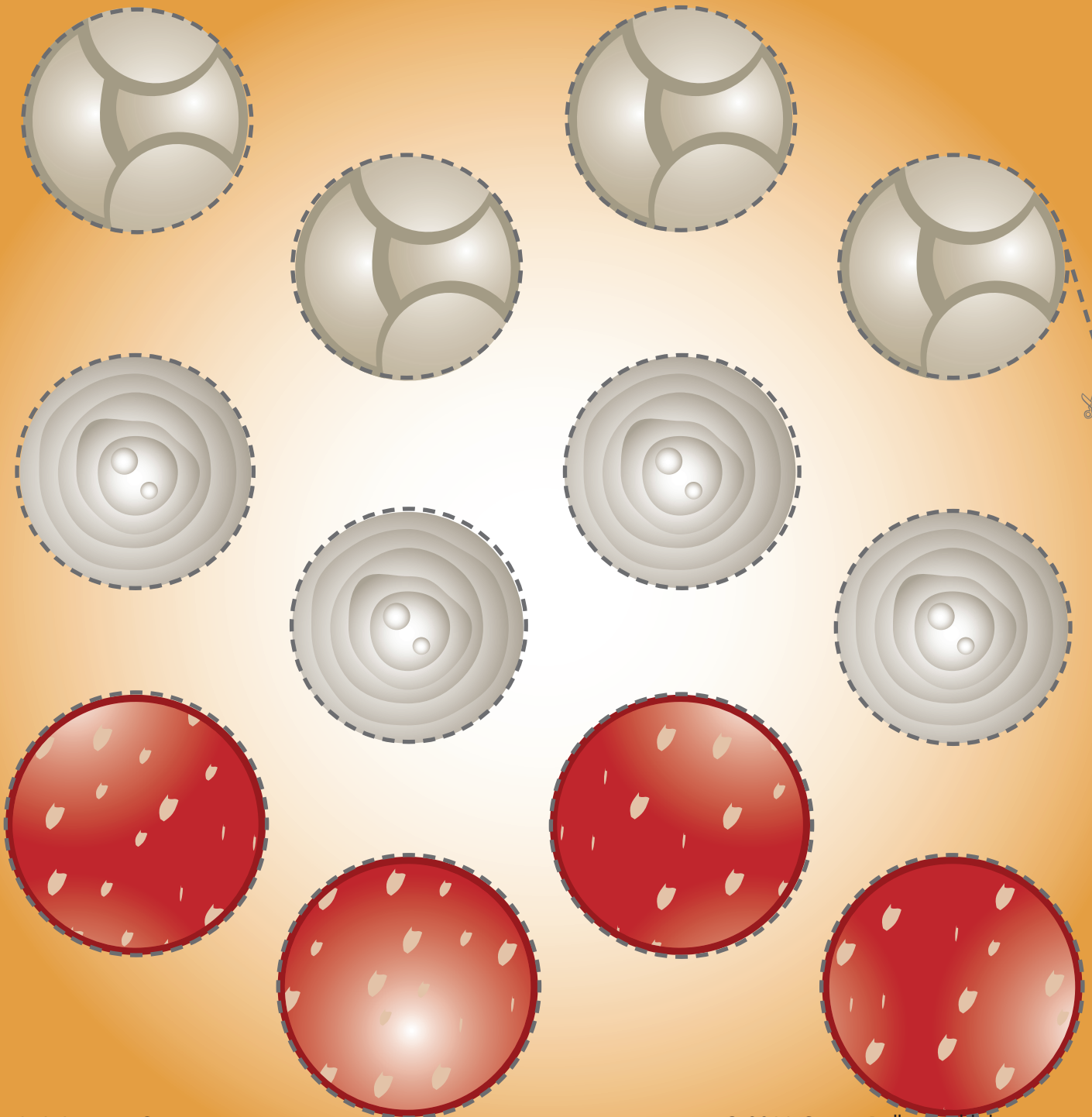
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Pizza Toppings

Skill: Cutting a circle

Directions: Your child will cut out the pizza toppings, then paste the pizza toppings onto the pizza.

Cut a circle.



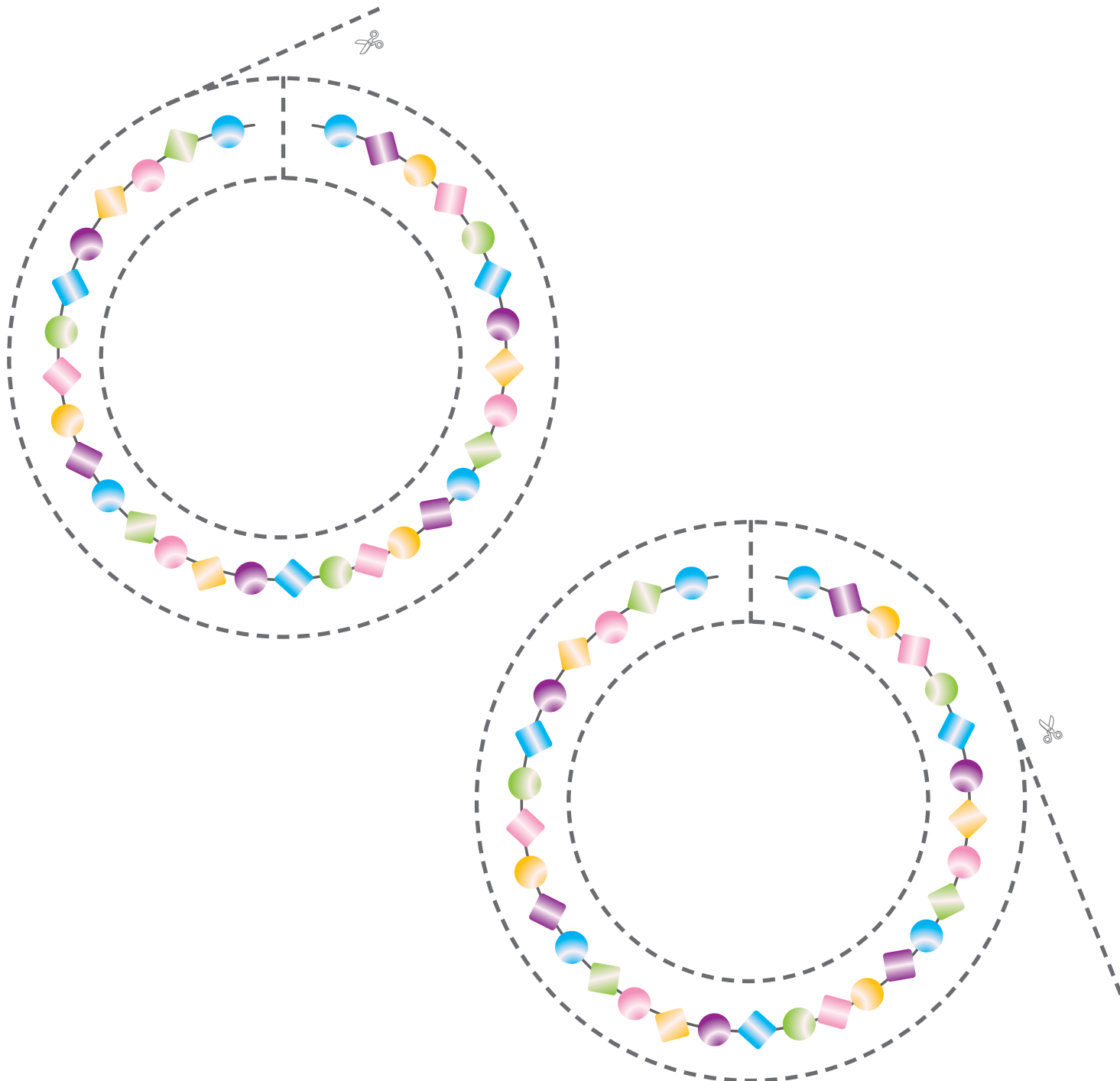
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Candy Bracelets

Skill: Cutting a circle

Directions: Your child will make candy bracelets by cutting along the dotted lines. Tape the ends together to secure the bracelets.

Cut a circle.



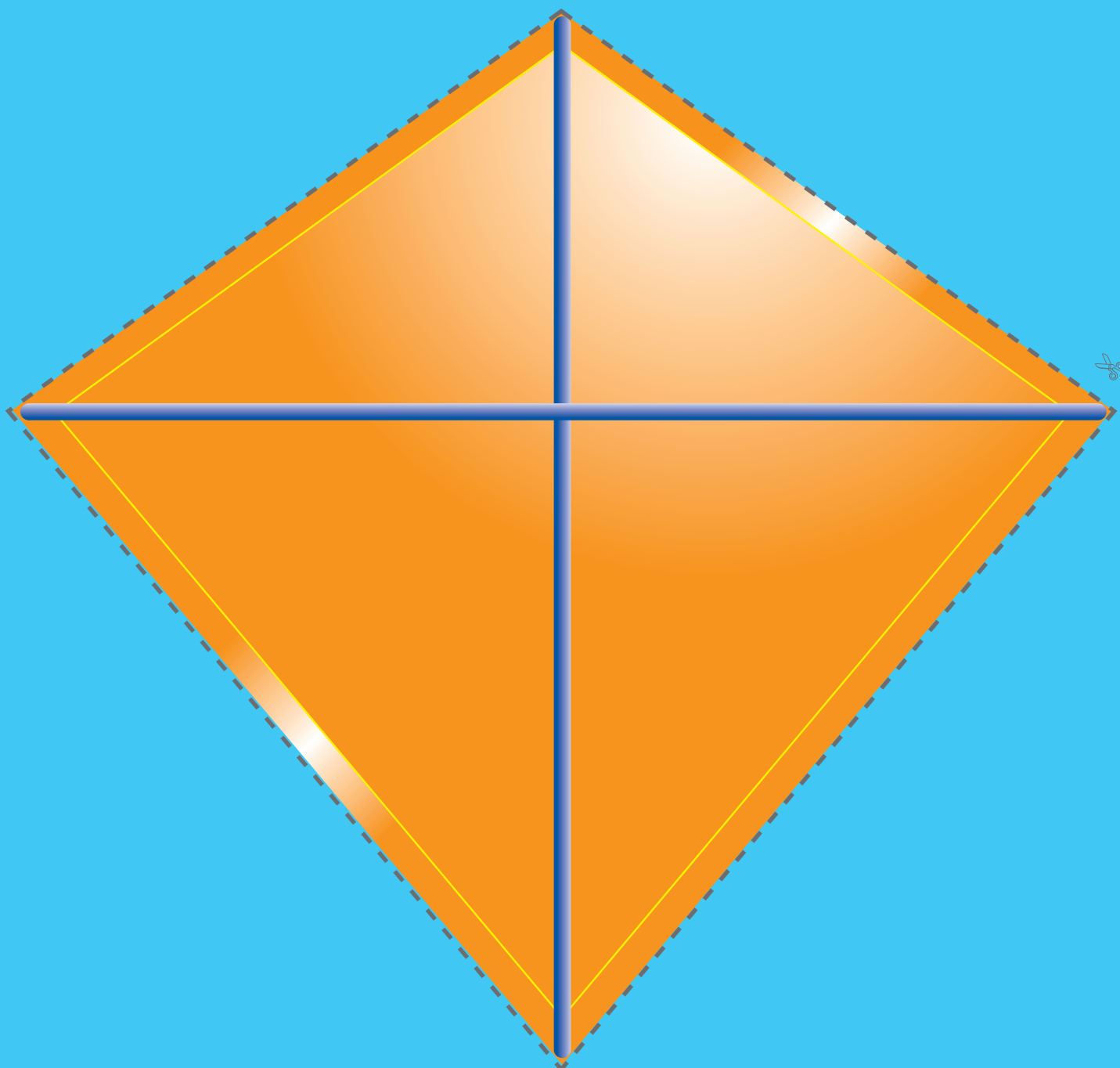
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Cool Kite

Skill: Cutting a diamond

Directions: Your child will cut along the dotted lines of the diamond-shaped kite. Then, your child can go to the next activity to make a kite tail to attach to his or her kite.

Cut a diamond.



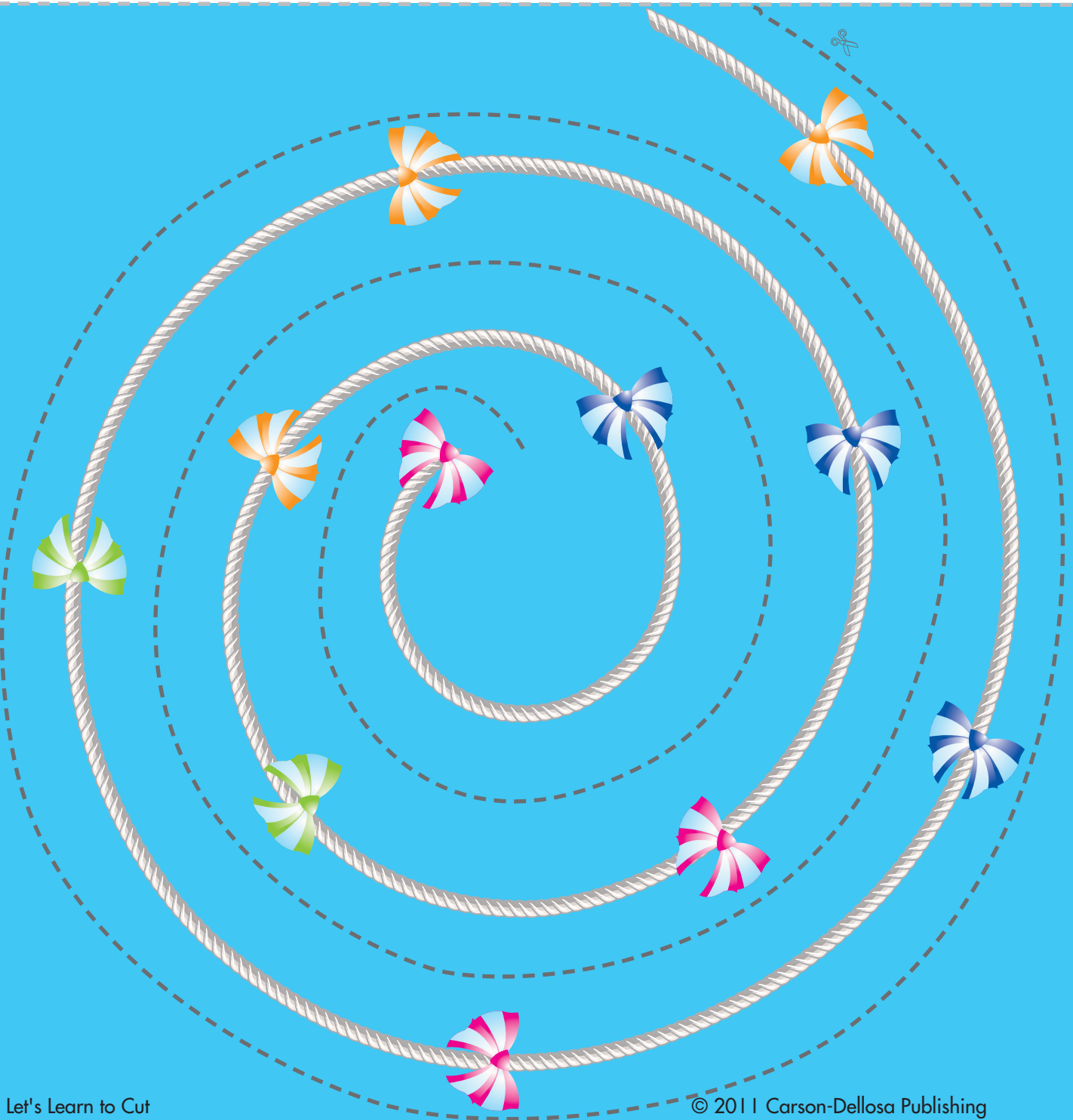
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Cool Kite Tail

Skill: Cutting a spiral

Directions: Your child will cut along the dotted line to make a tail for his or her kite. Help your child hang the kite in a window, doorway, or from the ceiling of his or her bedroom.

Cut a spiral.



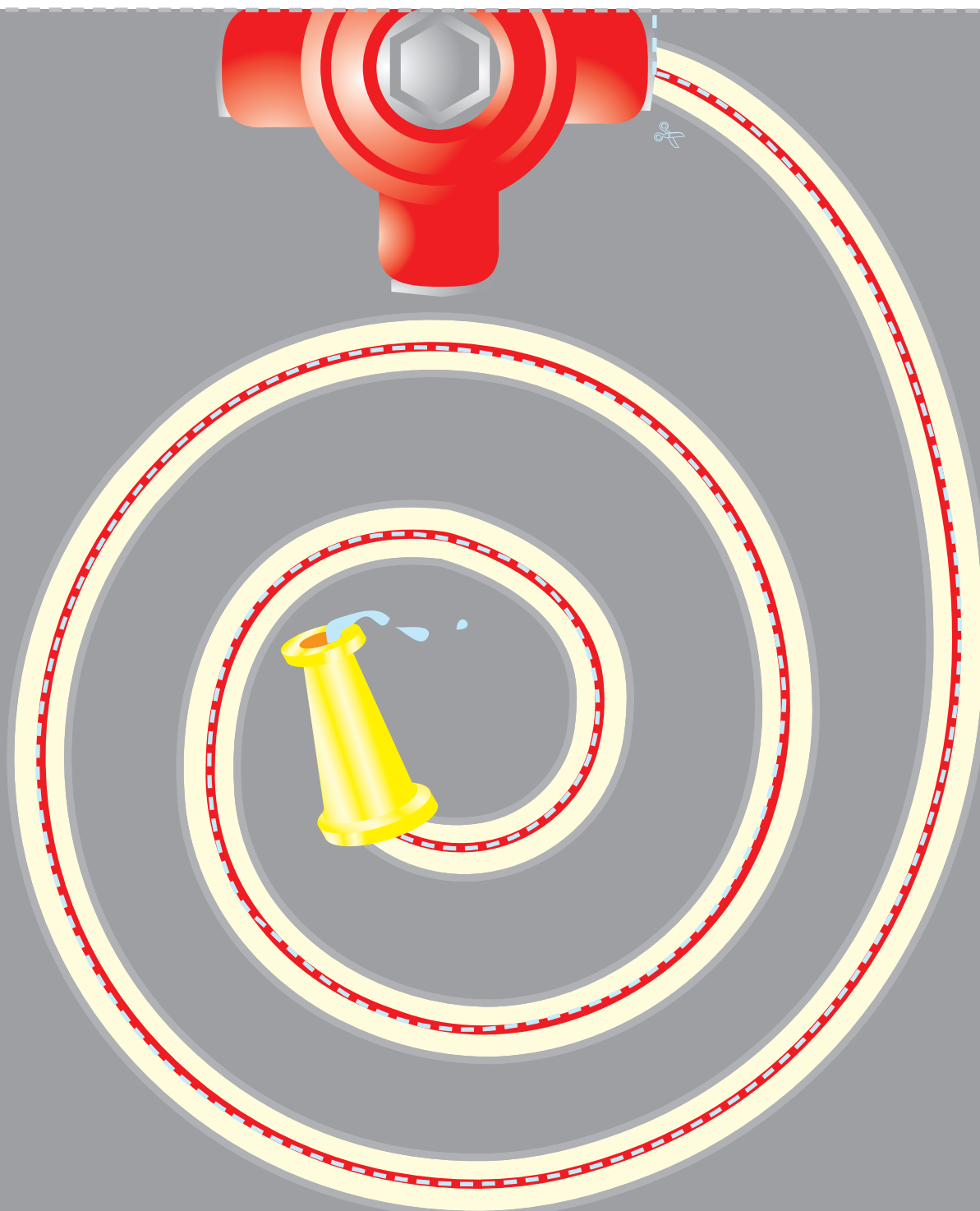
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Fire Hose

Skill: Cutting a spiral

Directions: Your little firefighter will cut along the dotted lines to unravel the fire hose.

Cut a spiral.



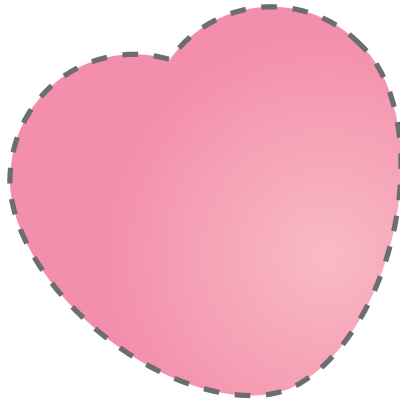
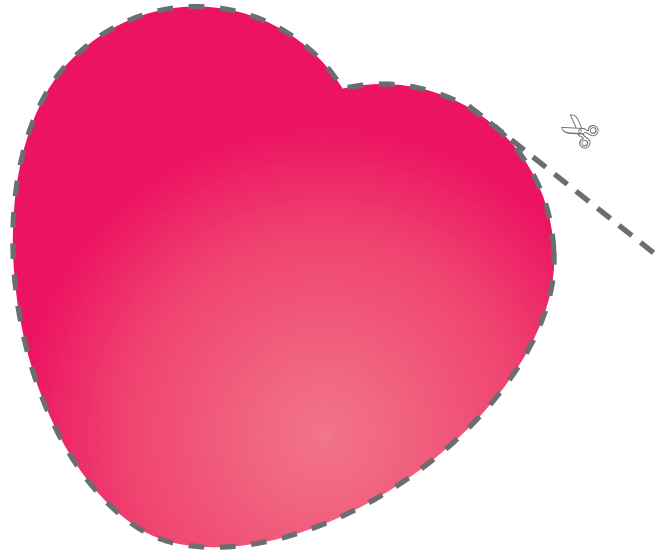
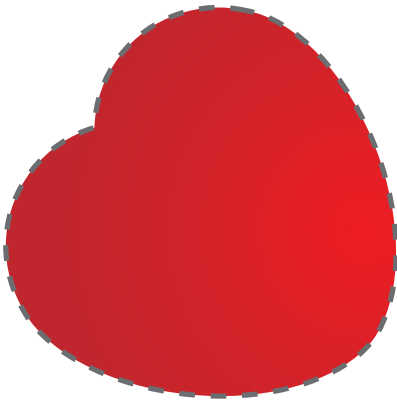
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Sweet Hearts

Skill: Cutting a heart

Directions: Your child will cut along the dotted lines to make hearts. It may take your child several attempts before he or she can navigate the shape of the hearts with a pair of scissors.

Cut a heart.



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Street Signs

Skill: Cutting various shapes

Directions: Your child will cut out the street signs. You can help your child mount the signs on craft sticks using tape or paste. Show your child how to make a sign base out of a ball of clay.

Cut various shapes.



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Extension Activities for Cutting

Use the following hands-on activities to enhance your child's fine motor development. Keep in mind that the process, not the finished product, is what is important. Work beside your child and model the various alphabet activities for him or her.

Cutting the Grass

Did your child enjoy mowing the lawn in Activity #4? Your child can grow real grass to "mow" with scissors! You will need a few simple supplies to create a miniature lawn:

Dirt

Grass seed

Medium-sized cup

Water

Small bowl



Follow these instructions as you help your child create a lawn:

First, punch several small holes in the bottom of the cup (for drainage). Then, fill the cup half full with dirt, add grass seed, and cover with more dirt. Finally, add water. Make sure you place the cup in a shallow dish to catch any of the draining water. Set the cup in a sunny spot and wait. When the grass grows above the cup, your child can use his or her scissors to give it a trim.

Setting the Table

Give your child colored construction paper and ask him or her to make a placemat. Ask your child to cut fringe along the edges and decorate the placemat. Then, use the placemats to decorate the dinner table.

Hidden Treasure

Create a treasure map for your house. Hide a treat in a secret place. Draw a map with a few household landmarks and have your child follow the map to get to the surprise. Have your child use scissors to cut along the path in the map.

Color Collage

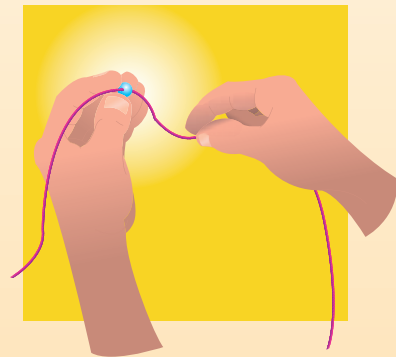
Give your child a large sheet of blank paper and several old magazines. Ask your child to look through the magazines for objects of different colors. Have your child cut out the pictures and paste them to the paper. Encourage your child to overlap the pictures, so that the entire paper is covered with color.

Shape Pictures

Have your child work at a flat surface. Give your child a stack of construction paper and ask him or her to cut out several different shapes. Encourage your child to move the shapes around to create different patterns and pictures. Demonstrate a pattern and ask your child to copy it.

Stringing Beads

Threading string through beads build fine motor abilities. Dip the end of a piece of yarn or string in glue and let it dry. This will make the string easier to thread through the beads, pasta, or cereal.



Bean Sort

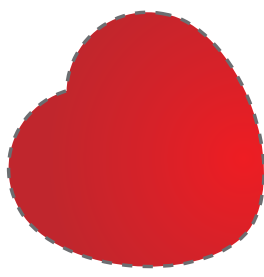
Sorting beans provides practice picking up small objects with the thumb and forefinger. Place a variety of dried beans into a large container. Have your child practice sorting the beans into the different sections of an empty ice cube tray.

Hide and Seek Surprise

Place a small toy or sticker in a small container with a lid. Place this container inside a larger container, and these containers in an even larger container. Be sure to use containers that have a variety of lift-off or screw-off lids. Hide the container inside a closet. Give your child clues where to find the boxes and then let him or her twist, pull, and pry his or her way to the surprise.



I Can Cut!

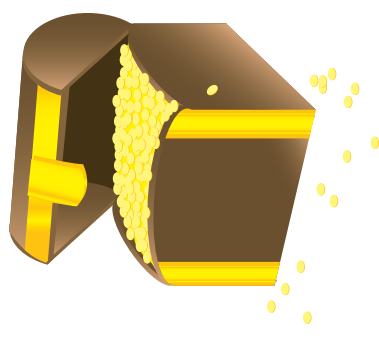


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successfully completed **Let's Learn to Cut**

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Let's Learn to **CUT**

The engaging cutting activities in the *Let's Learn* series provide important motor skill practice and cultivate school readiness. The books feature bright illustrations and simple step-by-step instructions for cutting activities that gradually increase in difficulty. Each book supports national standards for early childhood and includes essential activities for speech and language development, motor skill development, academic growth, and basic skills understanding.

Explore the other books in the *Let's Learn* series:

Let's Learn the Alphabet

Let's Learn Numbers

Let's Learn Colors & Shapes

Let's Learn to Paste

Let's Learn to Trace

