

# Four Seasons of Fun from



## Dear Educator:

Welcome to another wonderful year of learning — a year when the children in your class will once again astonish you with the discoveries they make every day.

This year, to add to the excitement, LearningWorks is delighted to present you with this free educational program, **Four Seasons of Fun**, made possible by Hasbro Canada Inc., the maker of PLAY-DOH® brand modeling compound. Designed for daycare and preschool children, the program is filled with ideas for craft projects that tie-in with seasonal and holiday themes, and includes a set of engaging, hands-on activity sheets that focus on key developmental skills.

In addition, to enrich your children's learning experience, the program includes mail-in refund coupons that provide teachers with **free PLAY-DOH modeling compound** for the classroom, as well as mail-in discount coupons for parents and activity ideas they can use at home.

Please share this program with all members of your daycare or preschool staff. Although the program is copyrighted, you have permission to make copies of all program materials (except the product coupons) for educational purposes. And please return the enclosed **Teacher Response Card** so that you will remain eligible to receive free LearningWorks programs like this one in the future.

We look forward to your comments on **Four Seasons of Fun**, and hope you and your children enjoy the learning adventures it offers throughout the coming year.

Sincerely,

LearningWorks and Your Friends at Hasbro Canada Inc.  
Makers of Play-Doh® Modeling Compound

## Using the Program

1. Please photocopy this Teacher's Guide and the enclosed activity sheets. Provide a set of these pages to all daycare or preschool staff members.
2. Introduce the program by having each child take home a copy of the enclosed "Message to Parents," along with one of the enclosed **Family Discount Coupons** for PLAY-DOH modeling compound. Ask the children to bring in the activity on this sheet after they have colored it at home, so that you can display their work in the classroom.
3. Use one of the enclosed **Teacher Coupons** to obtain a mail-in refund for a 4-Pack of PLAY-DOH modeling compound that you have purchased at a local retailer. Share the other **Teacher Coupons** with members of your daycare or preschool staff.
4. **Four Seasons of Fun** is designed to help children develop cognitive, motor and social skills through craft activities that tie-in with seasonal and holiday themes. Review the activities described in this Teacher's Guide and plan now to enjoy them with your children during the coming year.
5. The program also includes a set of reproducible "anytime" activity sheets designed to reinforce learning in a variety of areas. You will find that several of these activities lend themselves to repeated use throughout the year.
6. Please remember to fill out and return the enclosed **Teacher Response Card** so that you can remain eligible to receive free educational programs like this one in the future. Your comments and opinions are important to us and help assure that our programs serve your needs and the needs of your students.

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melon slices, and nuts. Use your harvest to stock a pretend grocery store and to talk about good nutrition.

 **Thanksgiving:** Create a family keepsake by tracing each child's outspread hand on a flattened sheet of PLAY-DOH modeling compound. Trim out the hand to form a turkey shape, with the thumb as the turkey's head. Have children use different colored strips of PLAY-DOH modeling compound to decorate their turkeys' tail feathers, then let them take their artwork home to parents.

 **Halloween** Share the fun of making a jack-o-lantern. Provide a large circle of orange construction paper and PLAY-DOH modeling compound for children to model shapes for eyes, a nose, and mouth. Have children place their shapes in position and try out different combinations to see which makes the best pumpkin face. Show the group how changing the shape of the mouth can make the jack-o-lantern look happy, sad, surprised, or frightened. Have the children make faces to act out different emotions.

 **Holiday Treats** Invite your children's teddy bears and other stuffed animal friends to a holiday party. Have the children roll out sheets of PLAY-DOH modeling compound to make cookies for the feast. Use cookie cutters or jar tops to cut out cookie shapes, then decorate with pieces of PLAY-DOH modeling compound to create wreaths, Christmas trees, dreidels, snowman faces (with carrot noses sticking up!), and candy canes. Sing holiday songs at your party and talk about family holiday traditions.

 **Arctic Adventure** Celebrate snow season with an imaginary visit to the far North. Talk about the animals that live in the arctic region and have the children use PLAY-DOH modeling compound to create miniature polar bears, seals, and walrus. Talk about the people of the far North, the Inuit, and have the children use PLAY-DOH modeling compound to add snow igloos and kayaks to their arctic scene. Then let each child imagine what it might be like to live in the arctic and have them tell stories about their adventures there.

 **Valentine Day** Make it a day parents will remember by helping your children roll out sheets of PLAY-DOH modeling compound and cut them into heart shapes. Help the children use pieces of PLAY-DOH modeling compound to decorate their valentines with fancy borders and tiny flowers. Help each child use pieces of PLAY-DOH modeling compound to put his or her initials in the center of the valentine. Then have the children take their valentines home to their parents.

# A Year of Craft Ideas!

## Autumn

**Harvest Time** Celebrate the season by filling a basket or construction paper cornucopia with fruits and vegetables made with PLAY-DOH modeling compound. Help the children make green beans, peas, carrots, cucumbers, corn, radishes, tomatoes, potatoes, pepper, squash, oranges, apples, berries, grapes, bananas,

## Spring

 **Lucky Numbers** Turn St. Patrick's Day into a time to learn about numbers. Have the children use PLAY-DOH modeling compound to make shamrocks (three leaves) and four-leaf clovers. Count the leaves, then play a game by holding up three or four fingers and asking the children to hold up the matching clover. Have the children search the room for things with three and four parts (e.g., triangles and tricycles for three; rectangles, table and chair legs for four).

 **Easter Egg-citement** Have the children use PLAY-DOH modeling compound to create colorful Easter eggs. After making an egg shape, they can use tiny balls of PLAY-DOH modeling compound to make spots, strips to make color stripes, and thin strings to make patterns. Older children can use pieces of PLAY-DOH modeling compound to put bunny faces and flowers on their eggs. Use the eggs to play a color game. Ask "Who has red?" and have each child show that color on his or her egg. Go through all the PLAY-DOH brand colors. Which is the children's favorite?

 **Wow Mom!** For Mother's Day, have the children use PLAY-DOH modeling compound to shape the letters to spell MOM. Have the children arrange their letters on a sheet of paper, then show them how, by turning the letters upside down, they have made the word WOW. Have each child talk about what makes his or her mom a "wow." Write their explanations on the sheet of paper and have the children trace and color the letter-shapes they have made. Then send them home with their special creations to give to their moms.

## Winter

 **Father's Day** For Father's Day, make dad a special pizza! Have the children roll out sheets of PLAY-DOH modeling compound to make the crust, and sprinkle on pieces of yellow PLAY-DOH modeling compound for cheese. Then use small discs (pepperoni) or strips (green pepper) of PLAY-DOH modeling compound to spell out DAD. Have the children top off their pizzas with miniature items to represent their fathers' favorite pastimes: small golf balls, fish, bowling pins, workshop tools, etc.

 **Canada Day Fun** Take the children on an imaginary picnic for Canada Day, using PLAY-DOH modeling compound to create your menu: hamburgers with green discs for pickles and red ropes for ketchup; hot dogs with yellow ropes of mustard; ribbed yellow discs for potato chips and brown ropes twisted into pretzels. Play the "I'm going on a picnic" memory game with your creations, passing a pretend picnic basket around the circle for the children to pack with their goodies.

 **Beach Scene** Talk about the seashore and what the children might see on a trip there. Have them use PLAY-DOH modeling compound to create a miniature beach scene, with beachballs, sandcastles, surfboards, and sailboats. Talk about the animals that live at the seashore and in the ocean. Have the children make starfish, octopuses, seahorses, fish, and whales with PLAY-DOH modeling compound. Help the children set up their beach scene so grown-up visitors can admire it.

## Summer

## Anytime Activities!

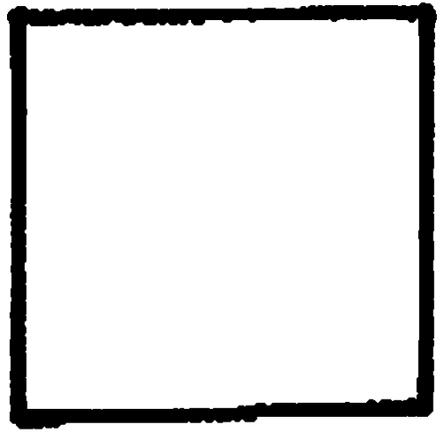
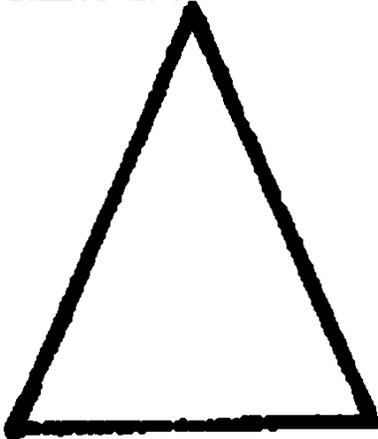
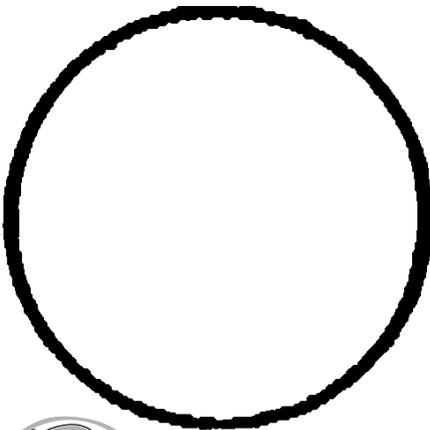
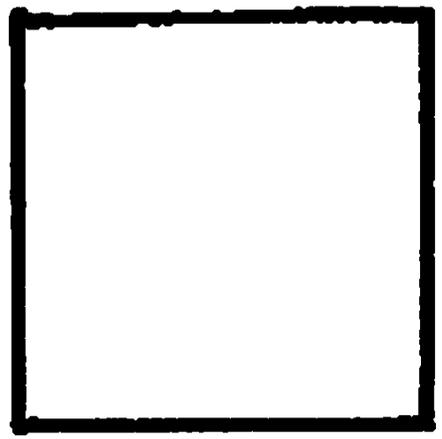
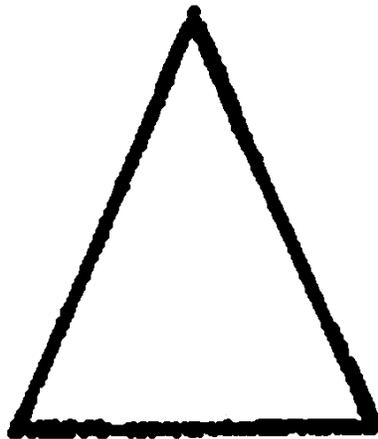
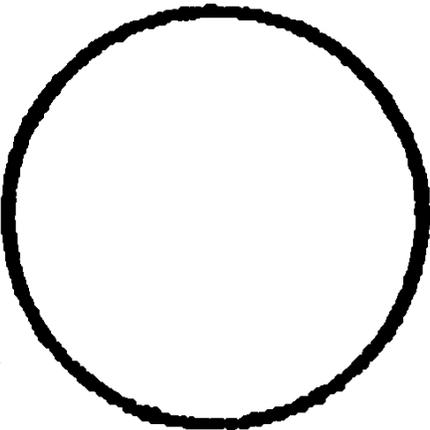
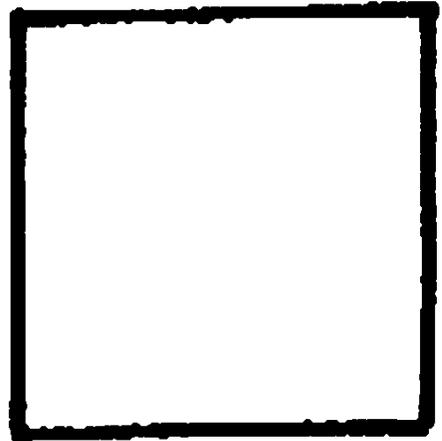
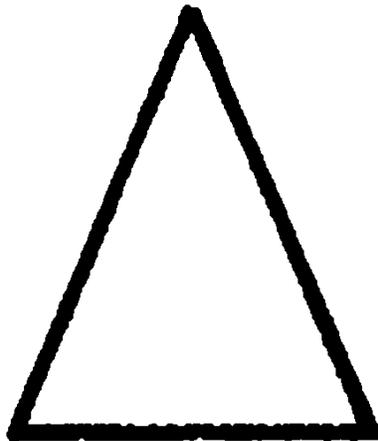
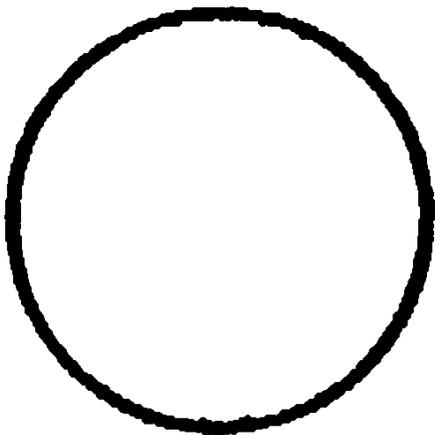
**Hello Mr. Potato Head®** This activity teaches the parts of the face and the five senses. Give each child a copy of the activity sheet and PLAY-DOH modeling compound. Have them model a nose, mouth, and ears and place them on the drawing of Mr. Potato Head. Ask what we do with our eyes, ears, nose, and mouth. Ask what Mr. Potato Head uses to touch and feel things. Have the children complete their pictures using strings of PLAY-DOH modeling compound to make glasses, a bow tie, a mustache, or a beard. Or children can make "him" a Mrs. Potato Head® by adding jewelry and a hair bow.

**Mr. Potato Head® Has An Adventure** This activity helps children understand place concepts. Give each child a copy of the activity sheet and read the questions aloud. Help children recognize that the tree is *behind* Mr. Potato Head and that the bird is *above* him. Ask: What is Mr. Potato Head wearing on *top* of his head? What is *under* his nose? Have the children draw an apple *beside* Mr. Potato Head, then talk about how the apple got there. Help the children make up a story about the picture, then have them color it to share their stories at home.

**Fun with Shapes and Colors** This activity helps children identify basic shapes and colors. Give each child a copy of the activity sheet and explain that they will play a matching game. The child who matches all the shapes on the game sheet will be the winner. Help the children make small triangles, circles, and squares with red, yellow, and blue PLAY-DOH modeling compound. Then make a small ball of each color and put all three into a bowl or paper bag. Have children take turns picking a ball, selecting a shape that matches its color, and matching the shape to one on their game sheet. Present the winner with a "medal" molded from PLAY-DOH modeling compound.

**Welcome to Shapes Land!** This activity gives children practice in recognizing basic shapes and in counting. Give each child a copy of the activity sheet and read the questions aloud. Help the children identify and count the different shapes. Then talk about the people who live in the house: How many people live there? Do they have any pets? Do they have any toys? Encourage the children to add people, pets, and toys to the picture. Then have them color the picture to bring home.

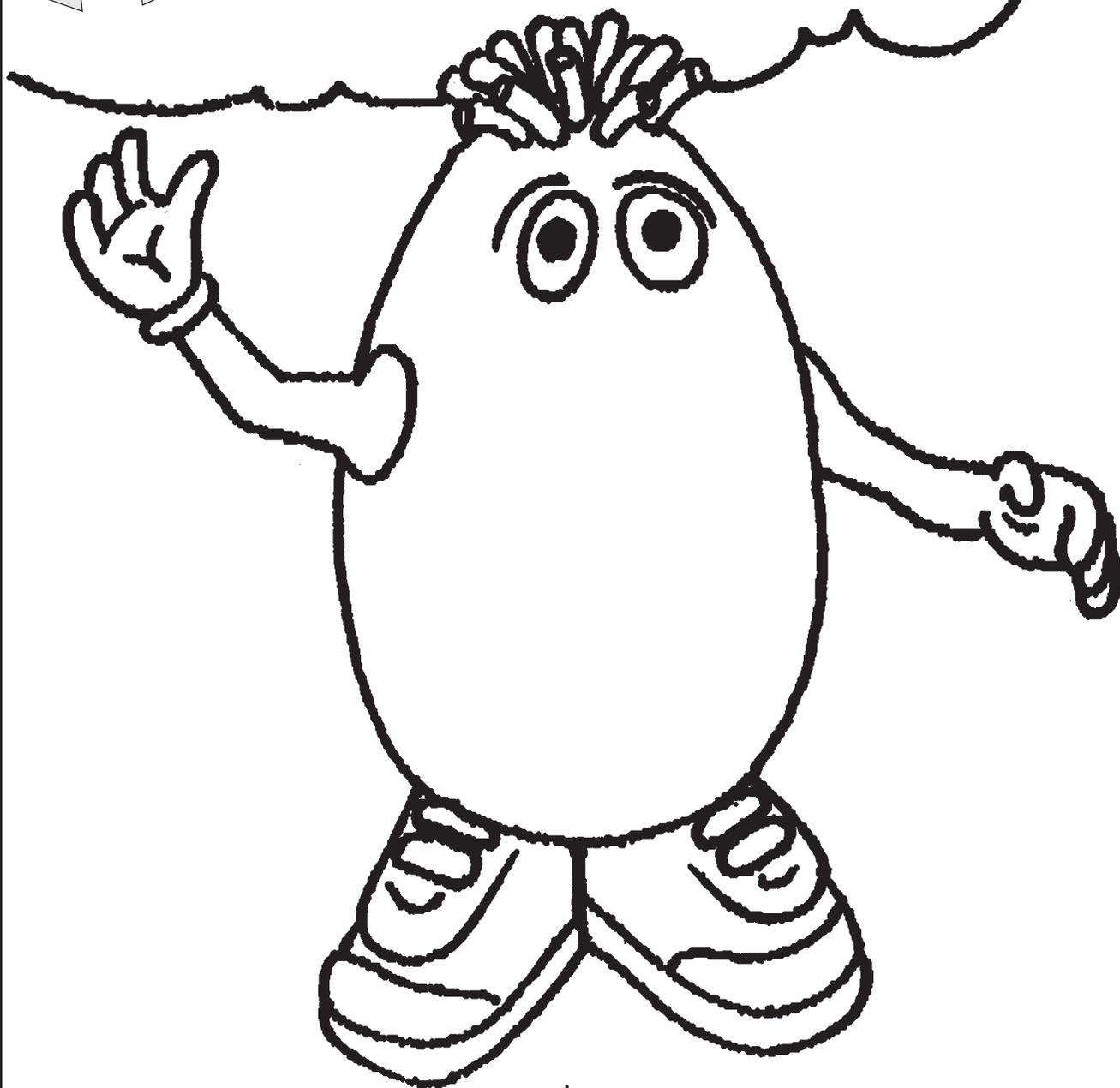
# Fun with Shapes AND Colors



Play a game with shapes and colors!  
Your teacher will show you how to play.



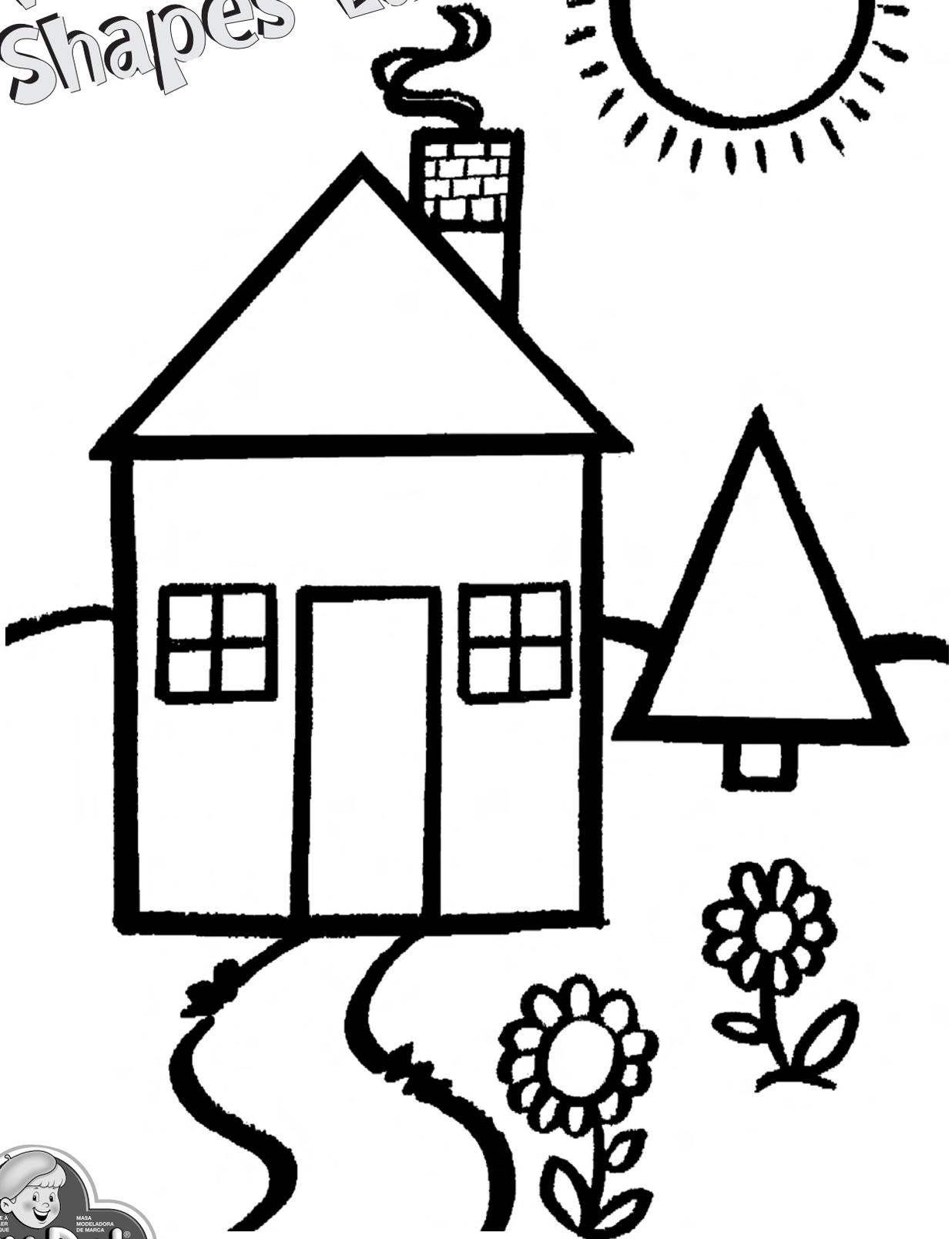
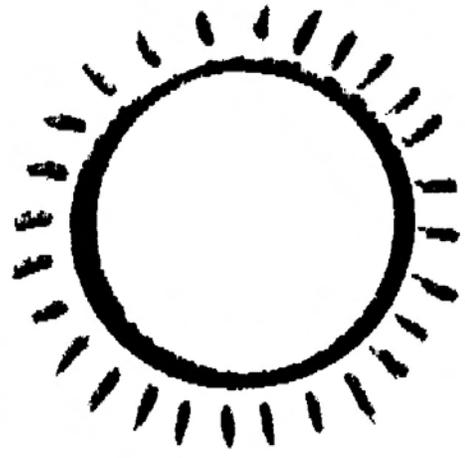
# Hello, Mr. Potato Head!



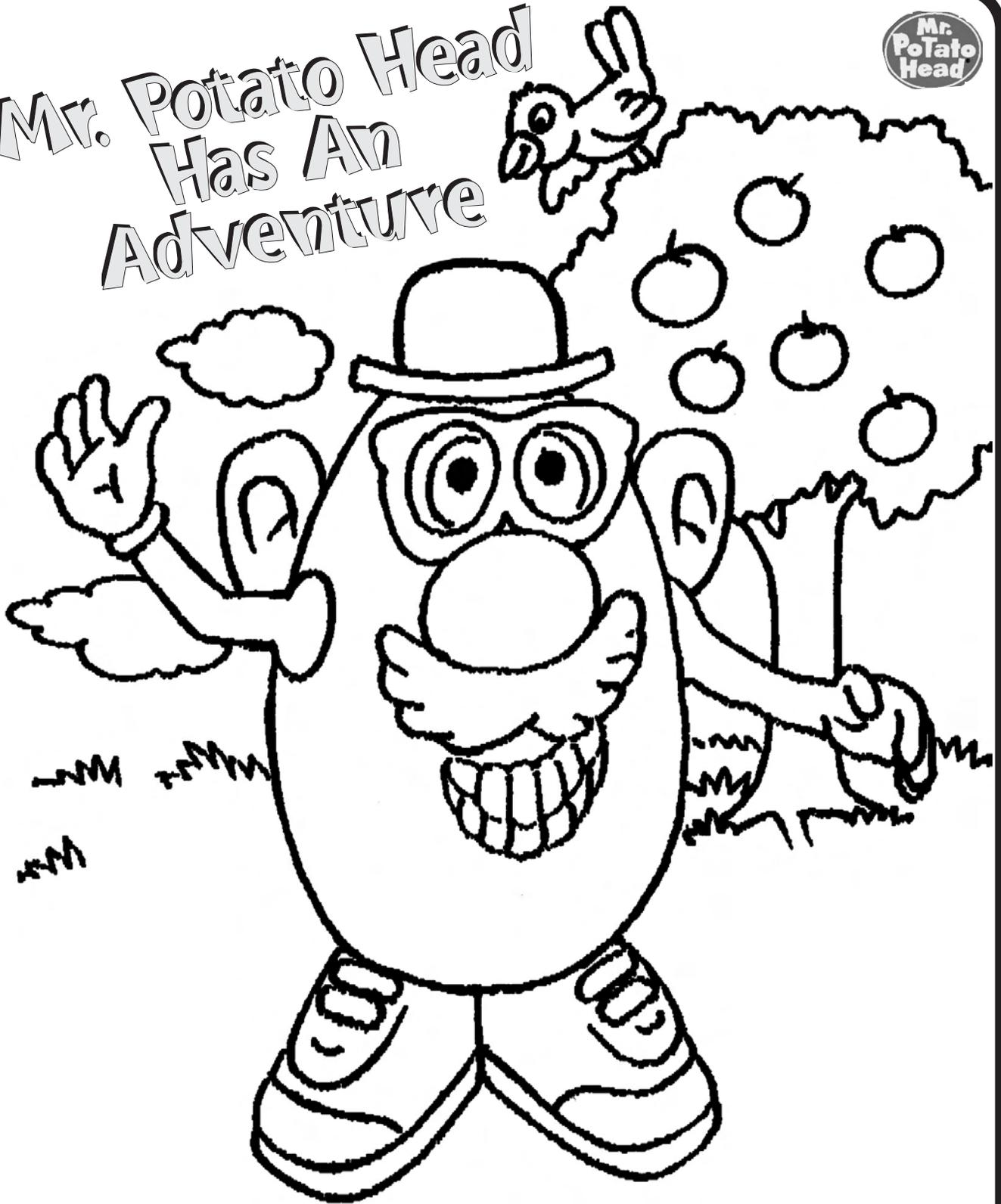
Something's missing!  
Give Mr. Potato Head a nose.  
Give him two ears.  
Give him a big smile, too!



Welcome to  
Shapes Land



# Mr. Potato Head Has An Adventure



What is behind Mr. Potato Head?  
What is above Mr. Potato Head?  
Draw an apple beside Mr. Potato Head.  
Color the picture. Tell what happened  
to Mr. Potato Head on his adventure.





Teacher:  
Please attach  
Family Discount  
Coupon here.

## Dear Parent:

This year, your child will participate in an exciting educational program called **Four Seasons of Fun**. The program has been developed by LearningWorks and is made possible by Hasbro Canada Inc., the maker of PLAY-DOH® brand modeling compound.

Throughout the year, your child will create a variety of craft projects that teach the meaning of traditional Canadian holidays and explore important seasonal themes. In addition, each project is designed to reinforce your child's development through play-based learning that strengthens key cognitive, motor and social skills.

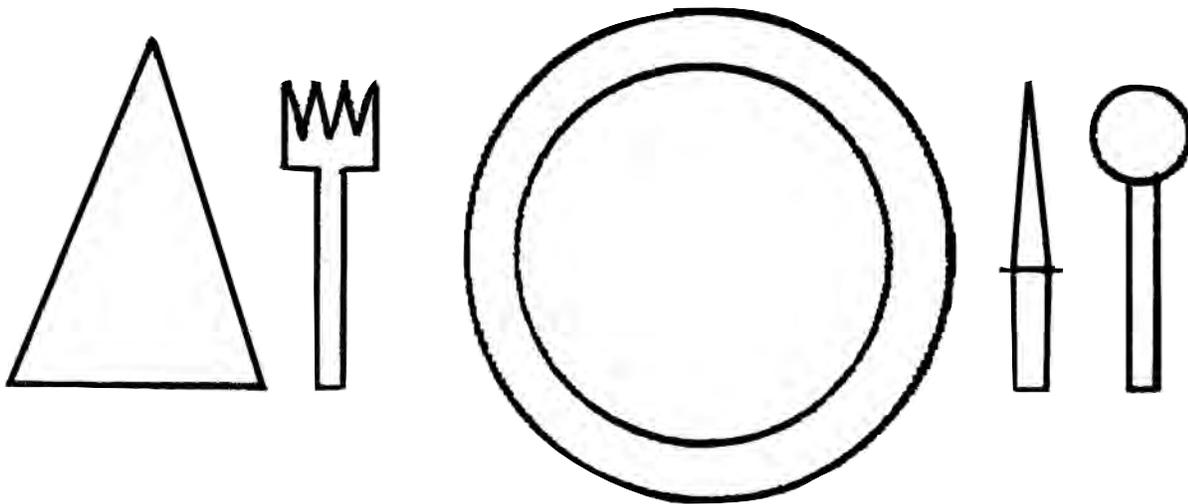
As you know, children learn best when skills are practiced both in the classroom and at home. To help you continue your child's learning experience, we are happy to provide **the attached Family Discount Coupon**, good for your next purchase of PLAY-DOH modeling compound. And we invite you to share with your child the learning activity shown below.

Best wishes for a year filled with wonders, discoveries and fun!

Sincerely,

LearningWorks, LLC and Your Friends at Hasbro Canada Inc. Makers of Play-Doh® Modeling Compound

# Table Time



Use this table setting to talk about shapes and reinforce placement concepts: What shape is the napkin? the plate? Point to a circle. A triangle. A rectangle. What is *beside* the napkin? What is *between* the plate and spoon? Color the place setting, and for extra fun, use PLAY-DOH modeling compound to make a miniature meal: spaghetti and meat balls, a chicken drumstick and peas, or a hamburger and fries!