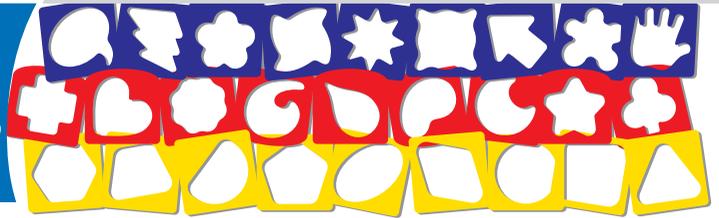


No. 58620

## "Fine Motor Skills" Silly Stencils



"Fine Motor Skills" Silly Stencils are designed to give your students a fun, artistic challenge while developing their manual dexterity. The color-coded stencils provide three levels of challenge and design possibilities.

The stencils in the first level are indicated by the square shape of the outer stencil. Pop out the interior shapes. There are smaller shapes within the interior template. Remove these shapes and discard (they can be a choking hazard for younger children). Start off with the easiest shapes. Children should successfully trace these shapes. Tip: For very simple tracing activities, use masking tape to hold the stencil securely on the paper. Ask children to repeatedly trace the stencil in different colors. Give children a variety of crayons in different widths and lengths and ask them to retrace the same shape over and over again to exercise their hand and finger muscles.

Once children are good at tracing the shape, remove the tape and ask them to use both hands, one to trace and one to hold the stencil. This will further develop their coordination skills.

Add vocabulary to your lesson plan by asking students to describe the shapes. Help them develop mathematical vocabulary by giving them the accurate names for each shape: circle, square, triangle, pentagon, oval, diamond, hexagon, parallelogram, semi-circle.

The second set are square stencils with a curved top edge and provides slightly more challenge. Pop out the interior templates; remove and discard the smaller pieces. Once children have gotten good at tracing these shapes, ask them to fill up a sheet of paper with as many overlapped tracings as possible. Tip: Give children 10-20 different colored crayons and ask them to trace one stencil with each color. To further develop fine motor skills, ask students to color in the overlapped areas of the tracings.

The final set of nine stencils are framed with a skewed square. These shapes are the most interesting, but also the most difficult to trace. Wait to introduce these shapes to your students until you are confident they are ready. Once again, before using, remove the interior templates and discard the small cut outs. Children will need to concentrate to successfully trace the shapes while using one hand to trace and the other hand to securely hold down the stencil. It is a challenging activity.

Double your fun by tracing the interior templates. Tracing templates is much more

challenging than stencils; encourage students to take their time and concentrate. Tip: Start with the easiest shapes and work your way through to the harder shapes. The interior cut outs of the templates are also fun to trace. Because they are smaller, they are more challenging and further develop little hands and fingers.

When all of your students can trace the stencils and templates, compose artwork! Use the shapes to make simple or complex pictures. Tip: Encourage students to add details using the small interior shapes from the templates or with free hand drawing. It takes a great deal of precision to effectively manipulate the stencils to make a picture and once your students are successful, you know they are ready for printing.

