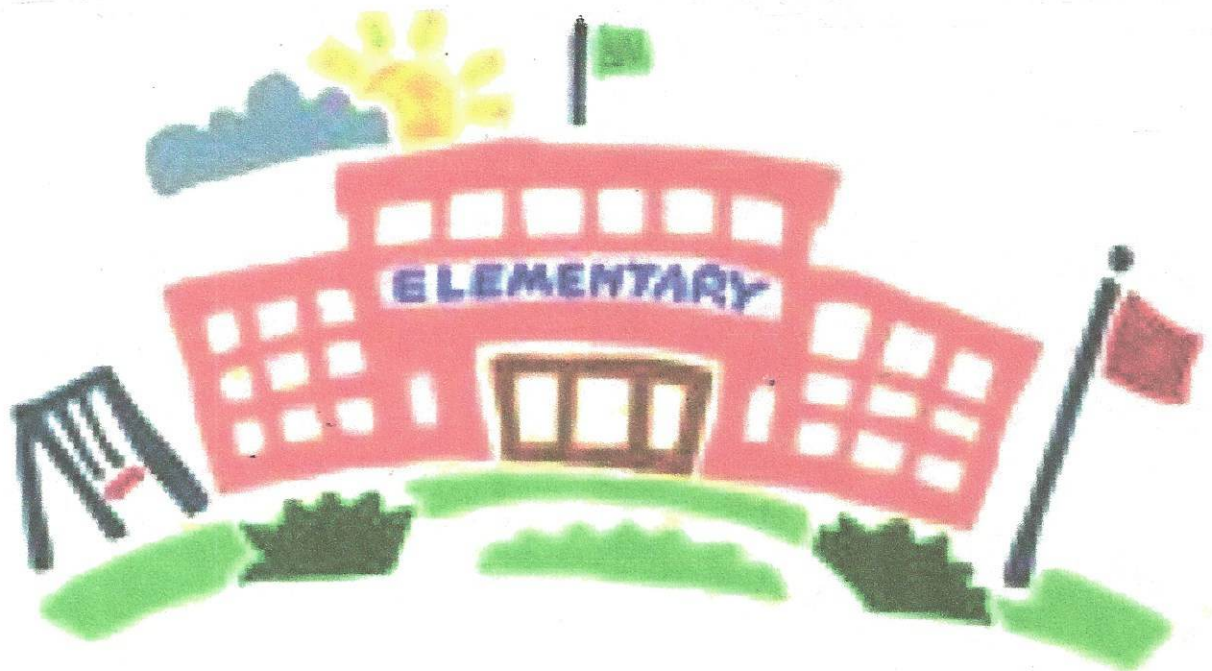




FUN Countdowns To The First Day Of School



A Simple Trick To Get Kids Excited For The First Day Of School



I think that if students count down the days til school starts, they have an opportunity to get excited.

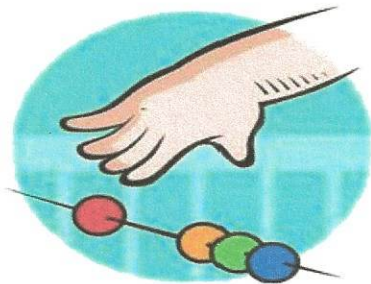
It's also a "teachable moment" for parents to work on numbers, counting, and introducing a calendar or how to keep track of time.

A fun and inexpensive gift that helps you do that, that you can quickly make and pass out at your Open House, is something that I just dreamed up.

Our Open House is the week before school starts, which is wonderful, because it gives me a chance to meet my students and help dispel any fears they might have.

Whip these kits together and toss the Baggies in a basket.

Set them on a table with the sign that says: *A special gift for my students. Take one.*



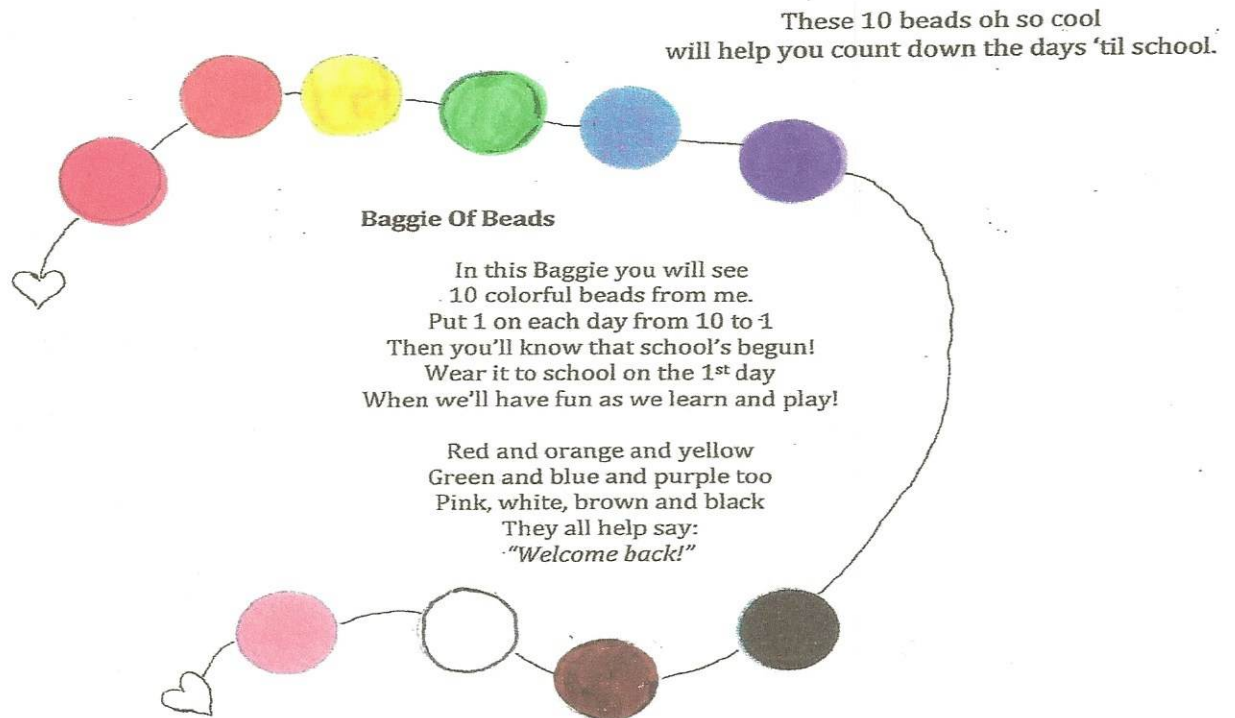
Making these "Countdown necklaces" help students count, use their fine motor skills, review all of the basic colors, follow a color pattern, + get excited about coming to school as they count down the days!

My Y5's also have to learn to count backwards from 10-0 as a report card standard. (I call this blasting off.) This is simply another fun way of doing that.

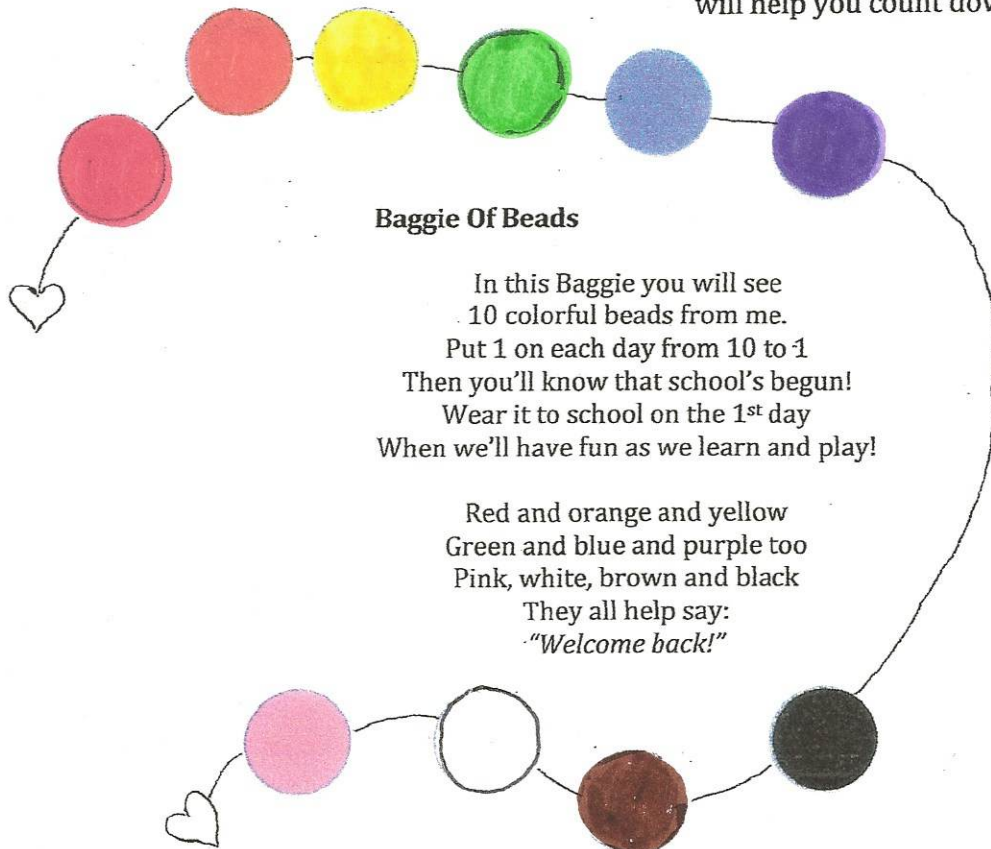
What a nice keepsake for them to have of this special time in their life!

Here's how to make the necklace kits:

- In a snack-size Baggie include 10 pony beads (one of each of the following colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, pink, white, brown and black) and an 18-inch length of white yarn.
- Tape the end into a point, with a piece of Scotch tape, so that it is easy for young ones to string their beads.
- Include the following poem:



These 10 beads oh so cool
will help you count down the days 'til school.



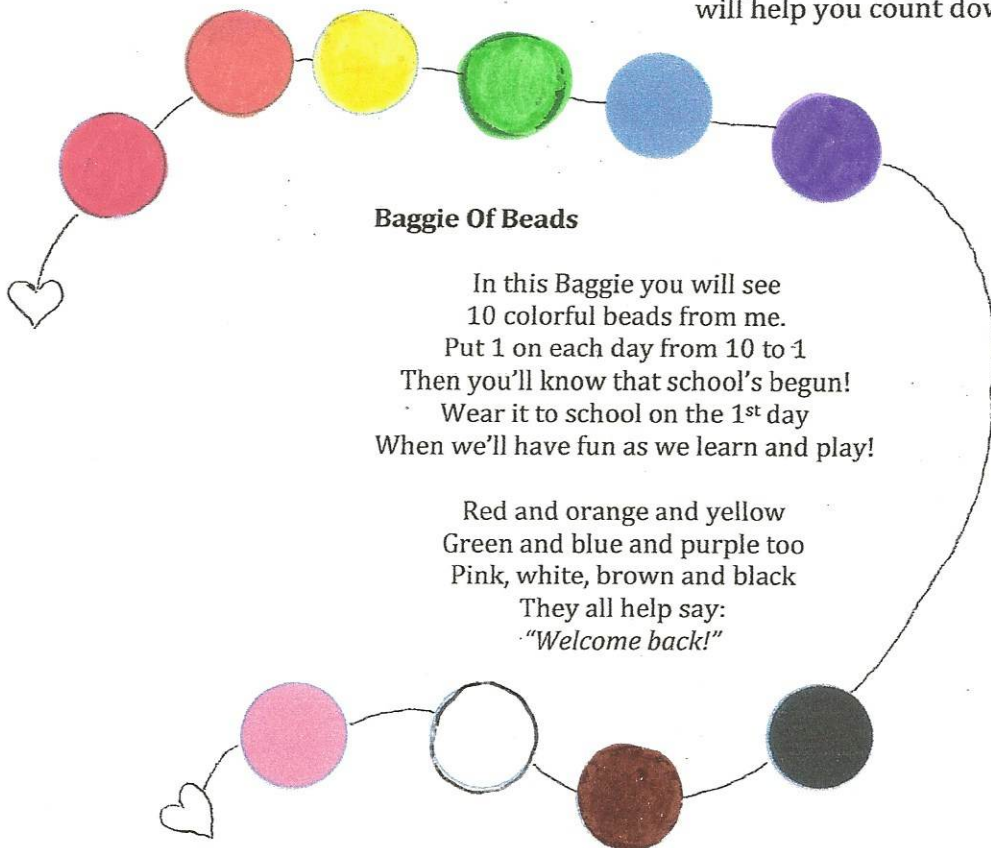
Baggie Of Beads

In this Baggie you will see
10 colorful beads from me.
Put 1 on each day from 10 to 1
Then you'll know that school's begun!
Wear it to school on the 1st day
When we'll have fun as we learn and play!

Red and orange and yellow
Green and blue and purple too
Pink, white, brown and black
They all help say:
"Welcome back!"

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These 10 beads oh so cool
will help you count down the days 'til school.

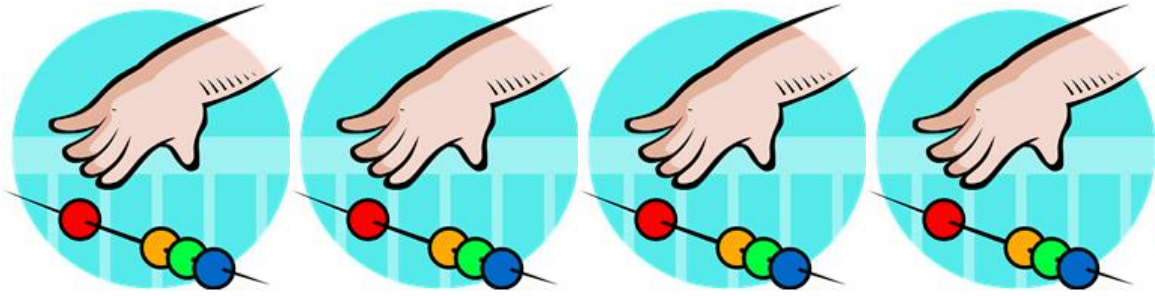


Baggie Of Beads

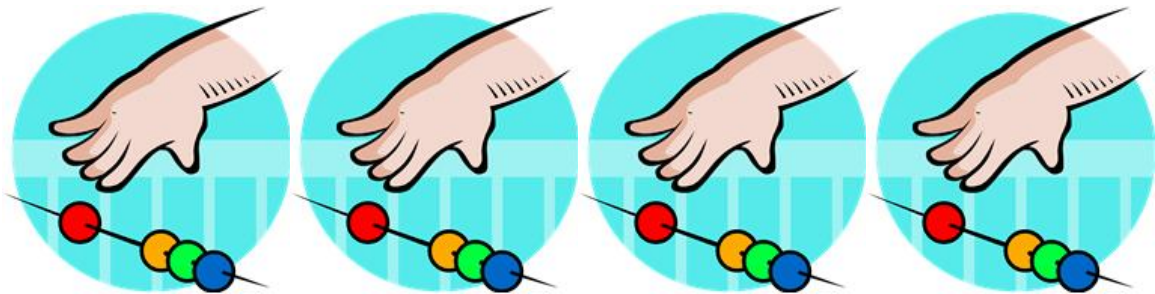
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For My
Students
A Special Gift
Take One





Dear Families,

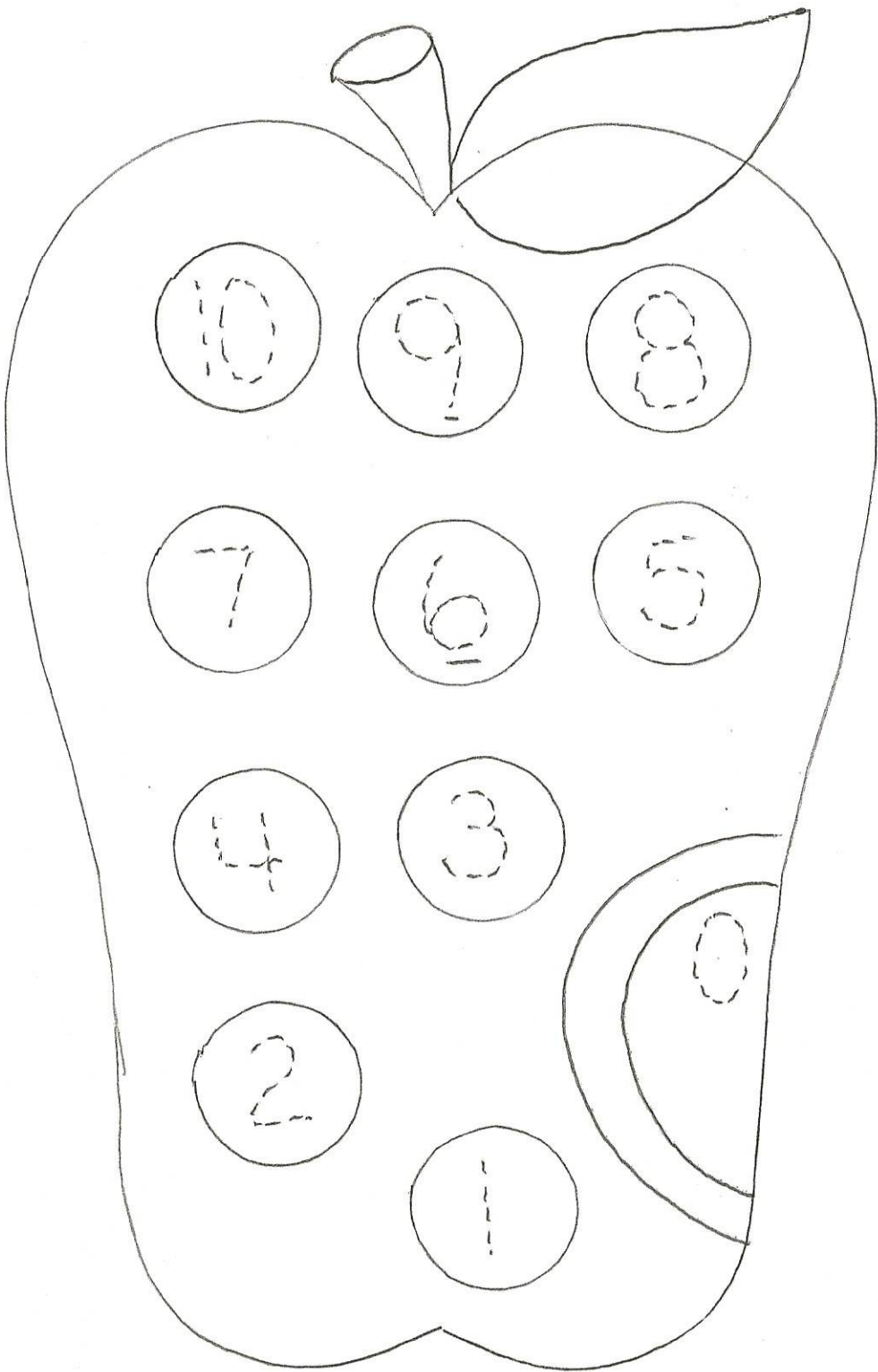
The first day of school will soon be here.
Enclosed is your child's countdown activity.

- Please have them color the basic shape.
- Put it on your refrigerator or in another prominent place in your home or in your child's room.
- 11 days before school starts, have your child begin their countdown.
- Each day that goes by, have them TRACE that day's number and then COLOR the circle.
- When they get to the 0 it will be time to go to their first day of school.

Hopefully this will help build excitement for the big day and they will look forward to all of the fun we are going to have learning together.

Have a wonderful rest of the summer.
See you soon.

Educationally Yours,



Take a bite out of your apple 'til the big day!

When there are 11 days before school starts,
start counting the days.

TRACE the number and COLOR a circle on your apple.
You can color each dot a different color if you want to.

It's like taking a bitty bite, 'til the last bite,
which will be the big day, the biggest bite,
your first day of school! Hooray.

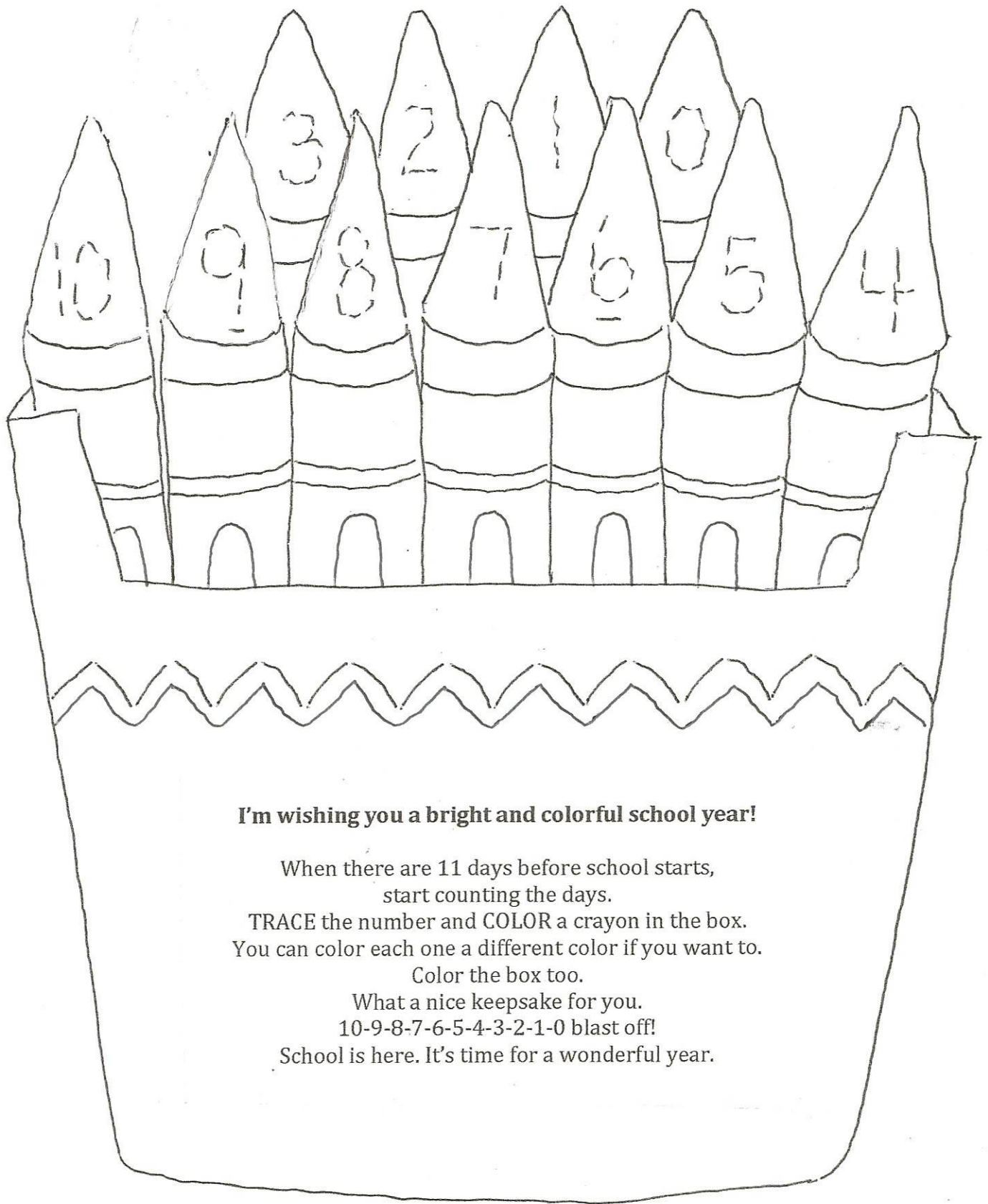
Color the apple red, yellow or green.

Color the stem and leaf too.

What a nice keepsake for you.

10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1-0 blast off!

School is here. It's time for a wonderful year.



I'm wishing you a bright and colorful school year!

When there are 11 days before school starts,
start counting the days.

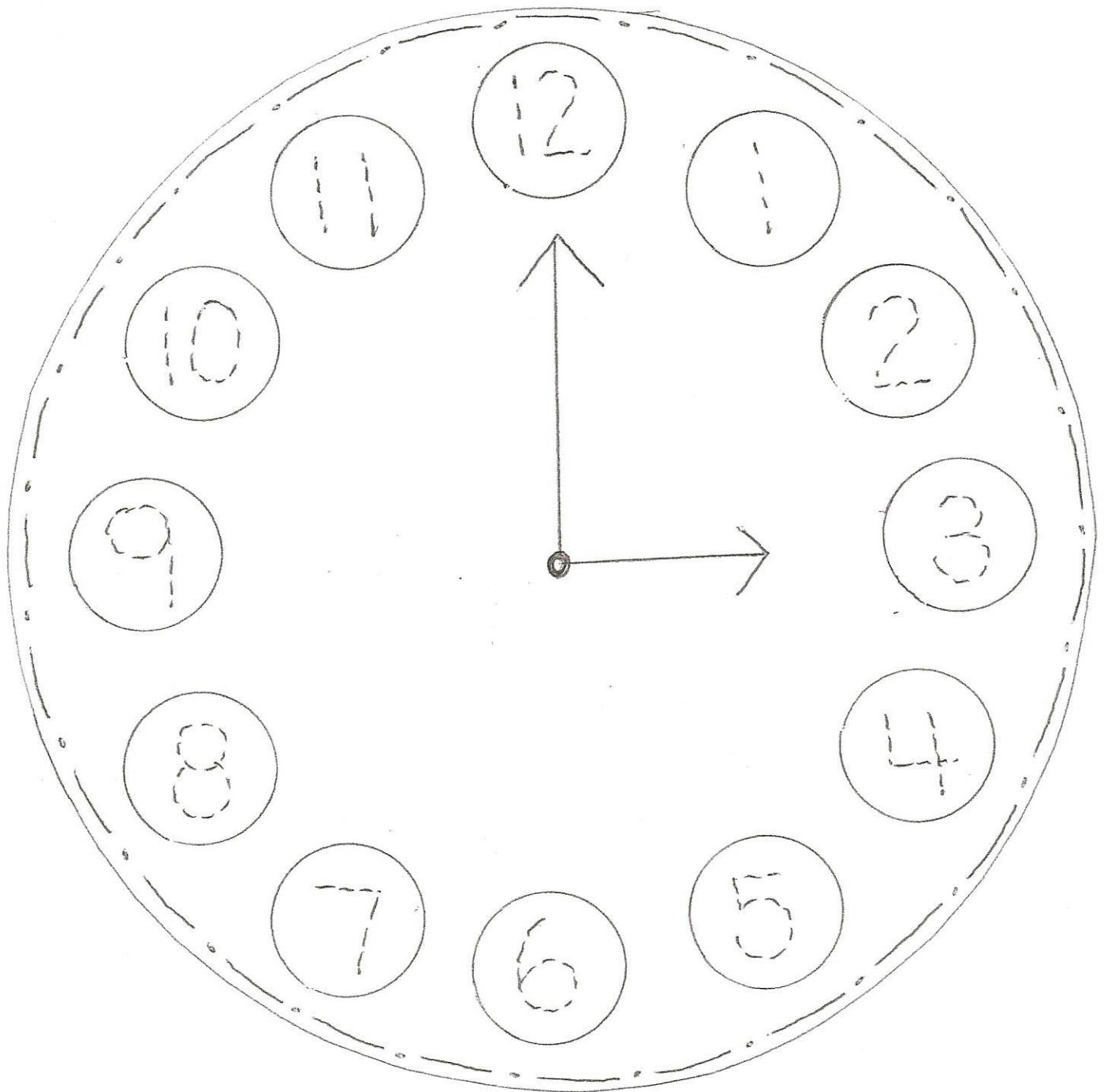
TRACE the number and COLOR a crayon in the box.
You can color each one a different color if you want to.

Color the box too.

What a nice keepsake for you.

10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1-0 blast off!

School is here. It's time for a wonderful year.



Way cool! It's TIME for school!

When there are 12 days before school starts,
start counting the days.

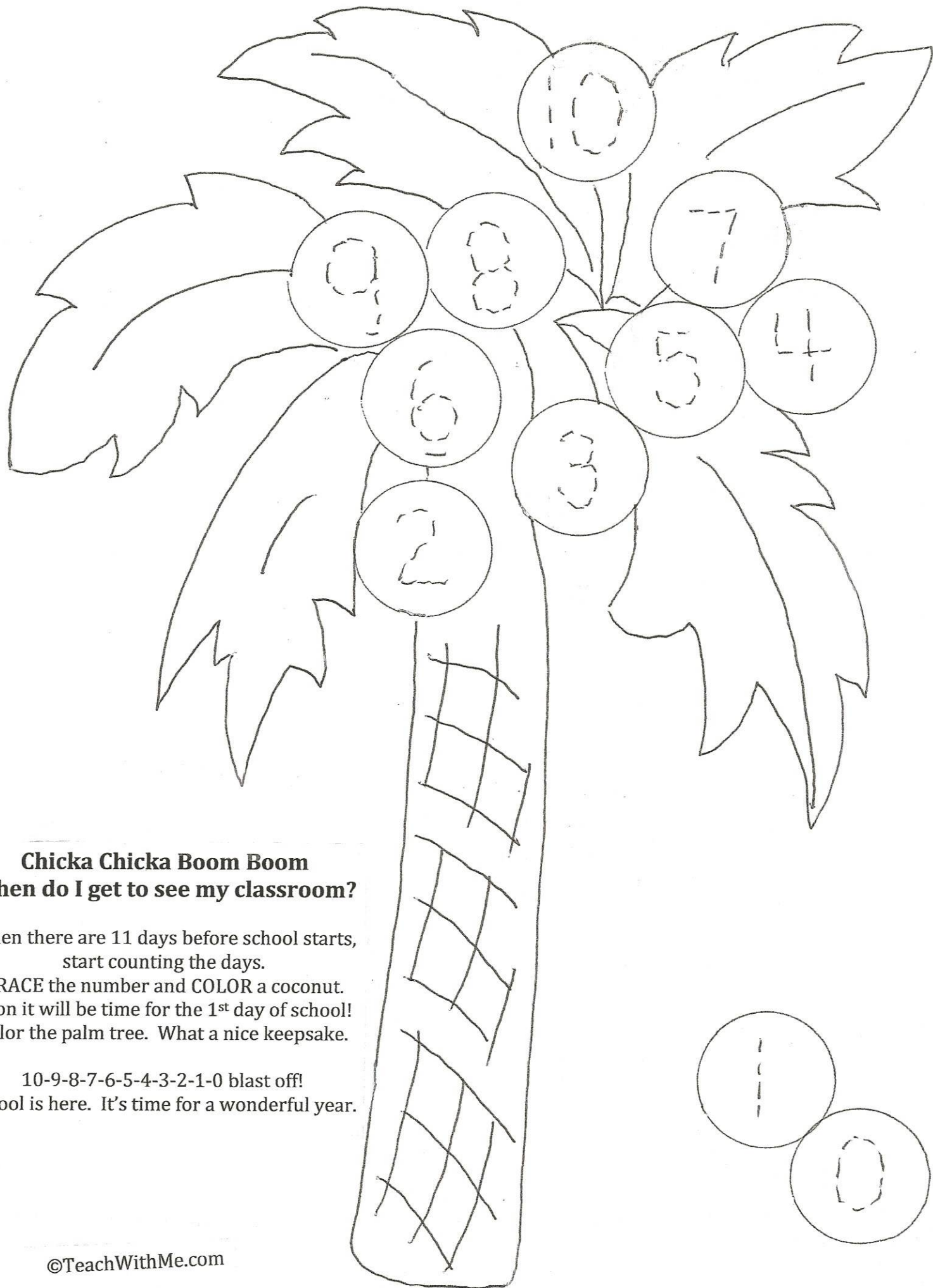
TRACE the number and COLOR a circle on the clock.
You can color each dot a different color if you want to.

Soon it will be time for the 1st day of school!

Tick Tock. What a nice keepsake clock.

10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1-0 blast off!

School is here. It's time for a wonderful year.

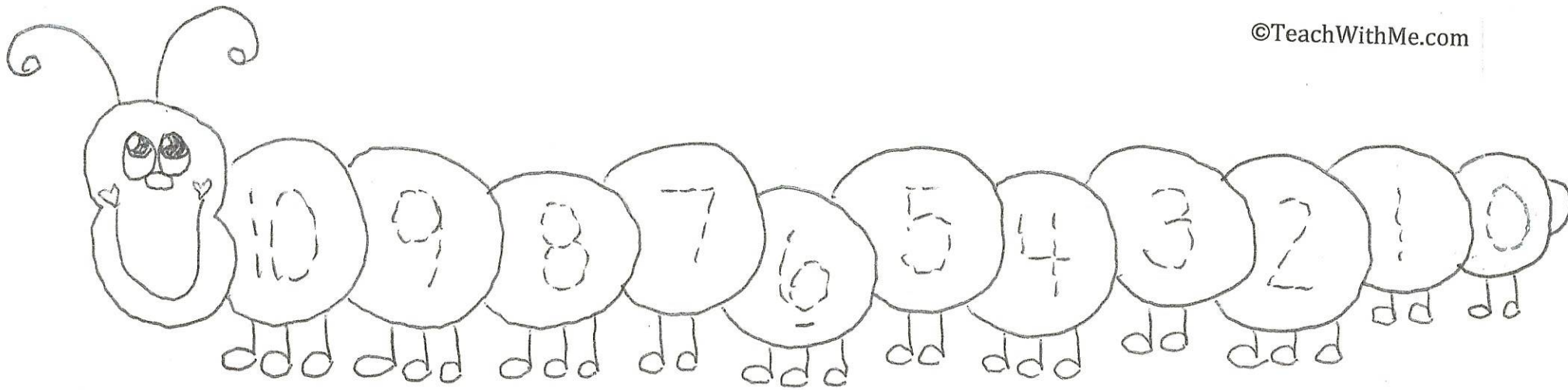


Chicka Chicka Boom Boom
When do I get to see my classroom?

When there are 11 days before school starts,
start counting the days.

TRACE the number and COLOR a coconut.
Soon it will be time for the 1st day of school!
Color the palm tree. What a nice keepsake.

10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1-0 blast off!
School is here. It's time for a wonderful year.



Hey-hey-hooray! Crawling to the big day!

When there are 11 days before school starts,
start counting the days.

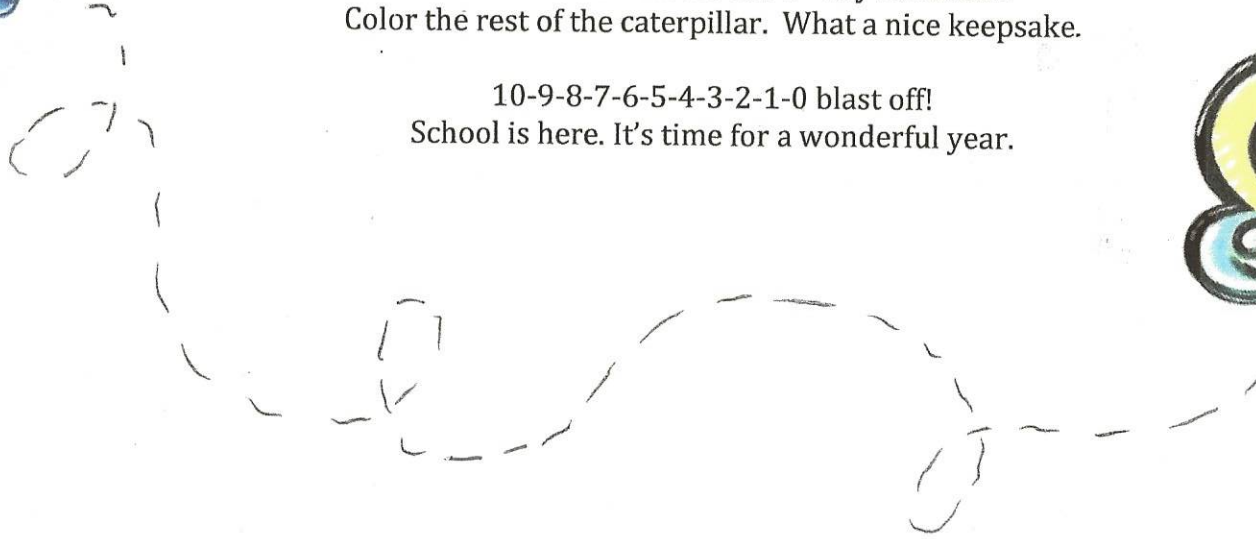
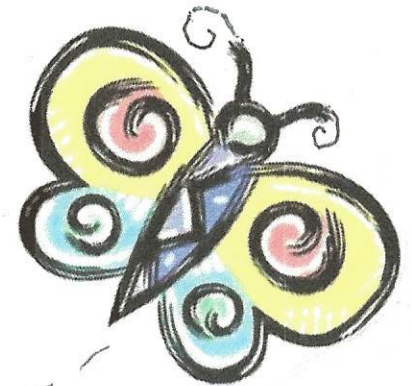
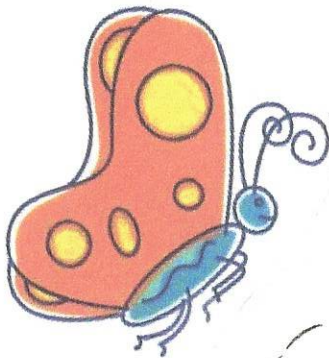
TRACE the number and COLOR a section of the caterpillar.

Soon it will be time for the 1st day of school!

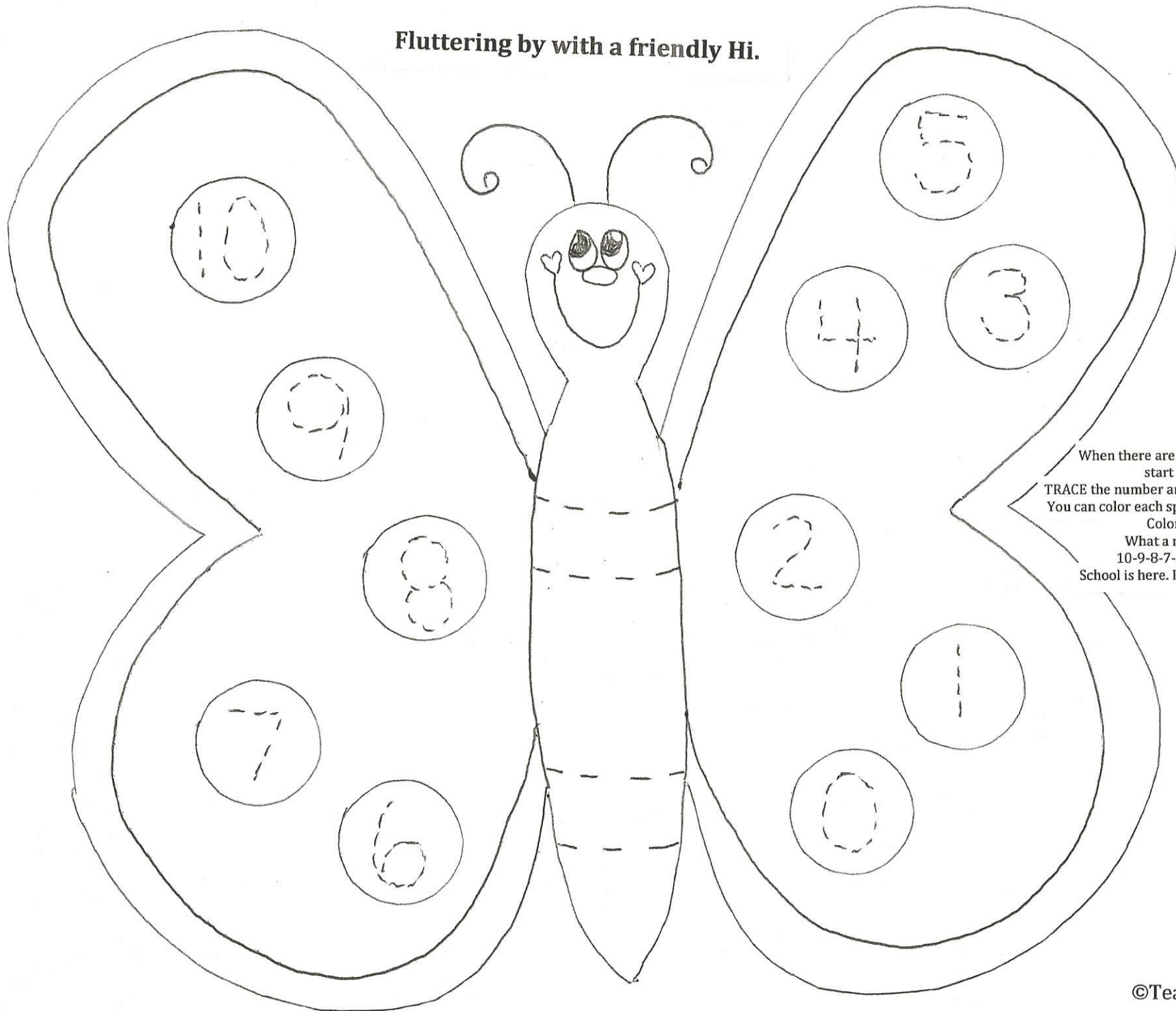
Color the rest of the caterpillar. What a nice keepsake.

10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1-0 blast off!

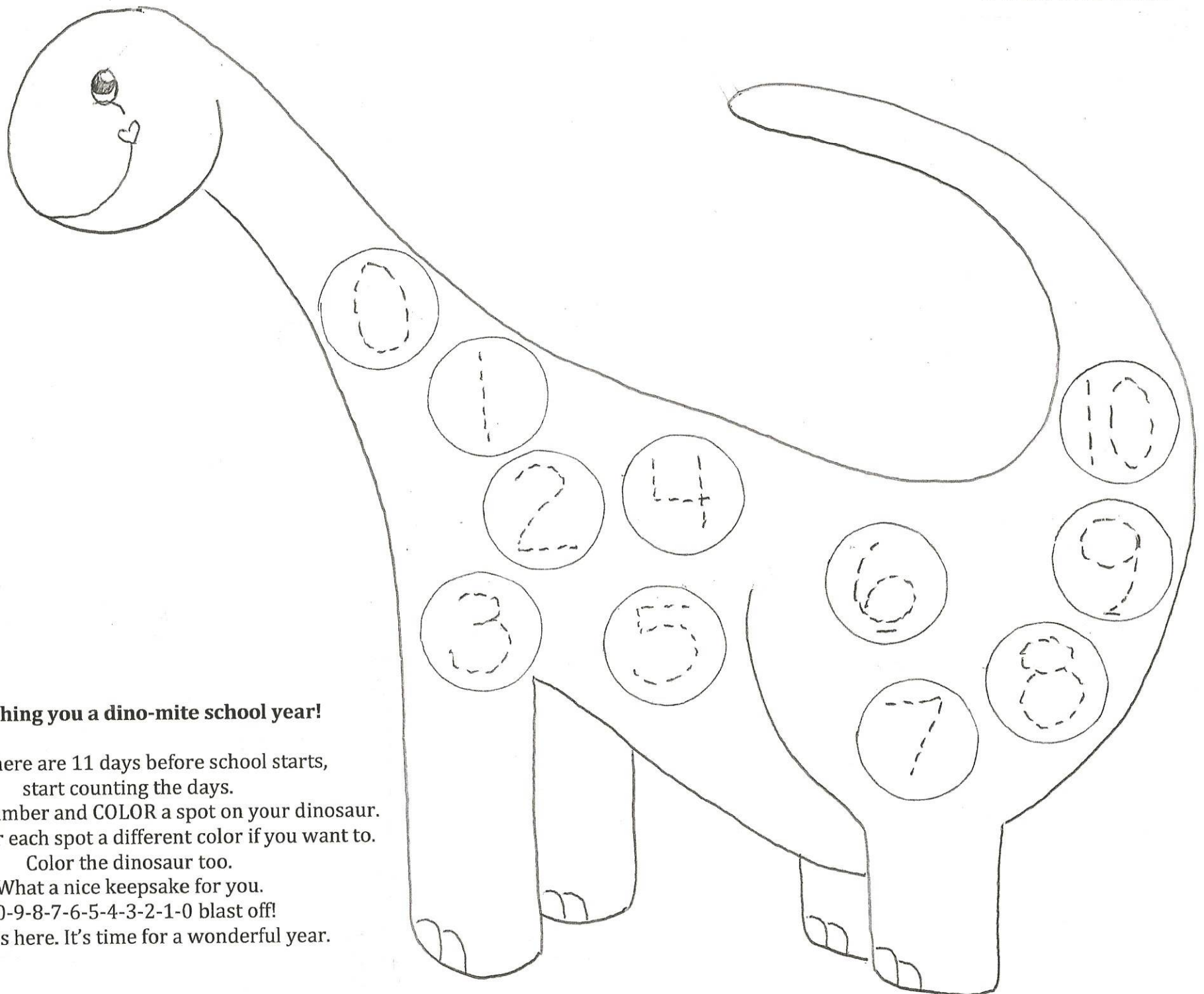
School is here. It's time for a wonderful year.



Fluttering by with a friendly Hi.



When there are 11 days before school starts,
start counting the days.
TRACE the number and COLOR a spot on your butterfly
You can color each spot a different color if you want to.
Color the butterfly too.
What a nice keepsake for you.
10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1-0 blast off!
School is here. It's time for a wonderful year.



I'm wishing you a dino-mite school year!

When there are 11 days before school starts,
start counting the days.

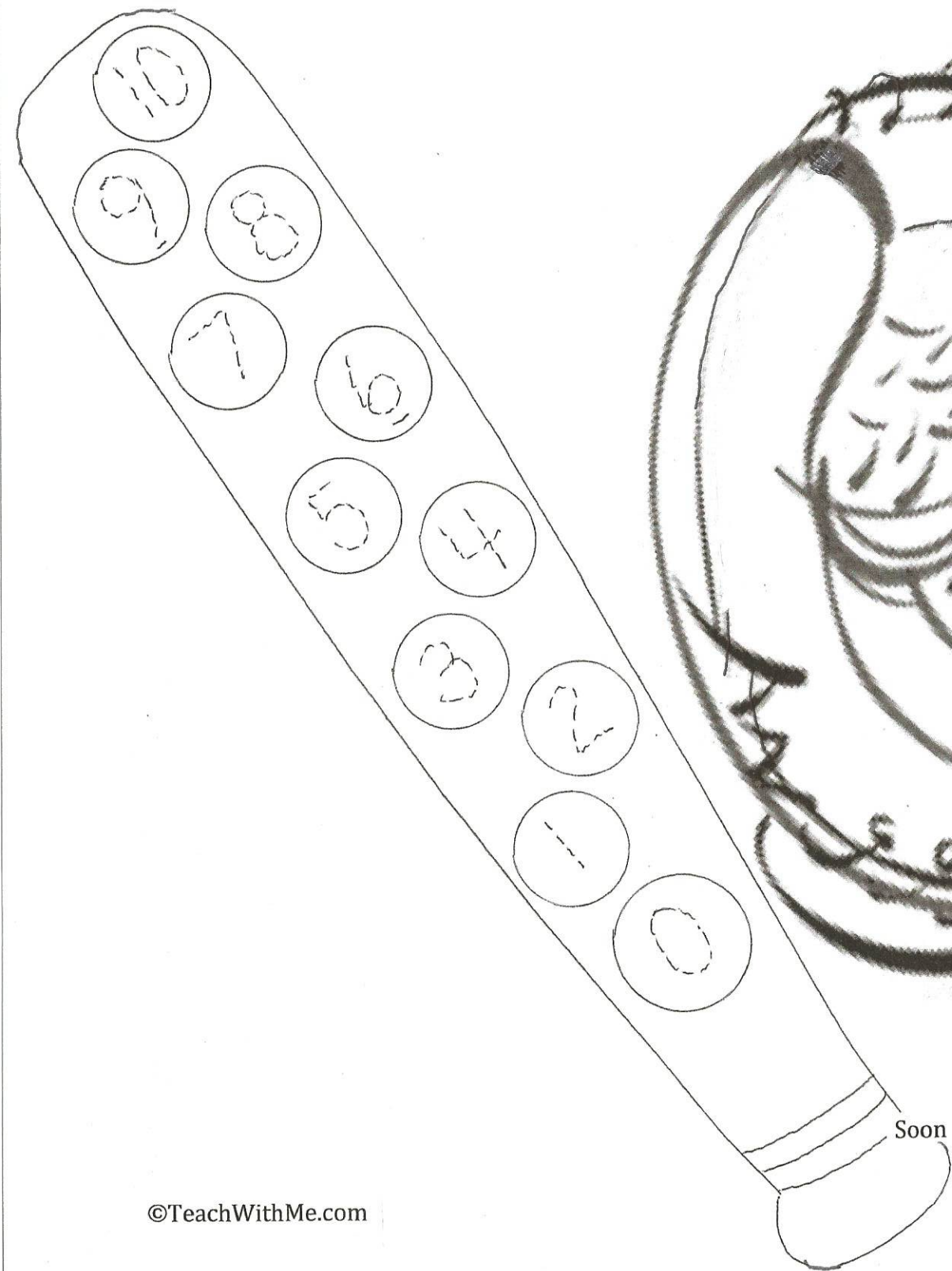
TRACE the number and **COLOR** a spot on your dinosaur.
You can color each spot a different color if you want to.

Color the dinosaur too.

What a nice keepsake for you.

10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1-0 blast off!

School is here. It's time for a wonderful year.



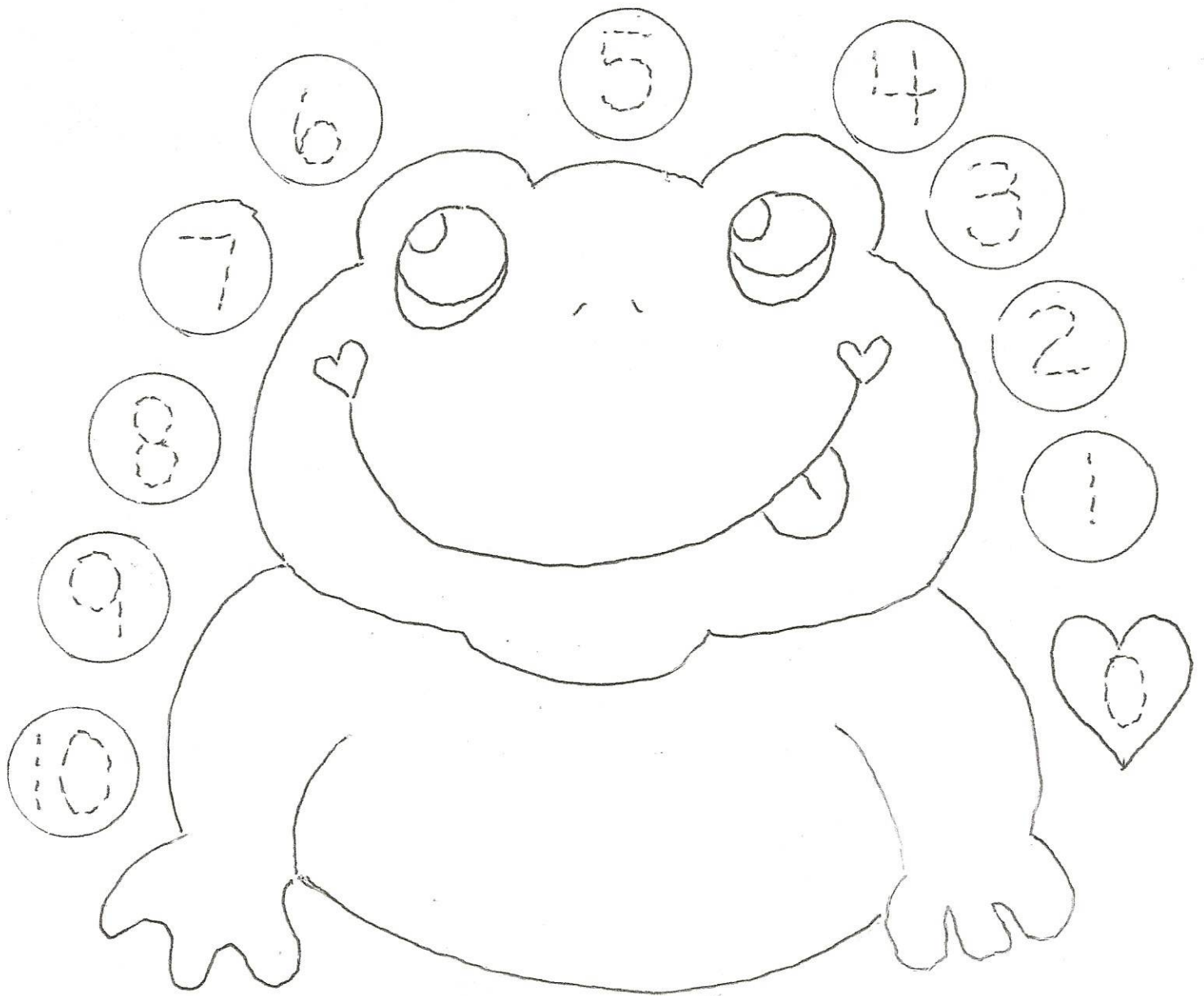
It's a homerun hit to school!

When there are 11 days before school starts,
start counting the days.

TRACE the number and COLOR a baseball on the bat.
You can color each ball a different color if you want to.

Soon it will be time for the 1st day of school that's your homerun hit!
Color the bat. What a nice keepsake.

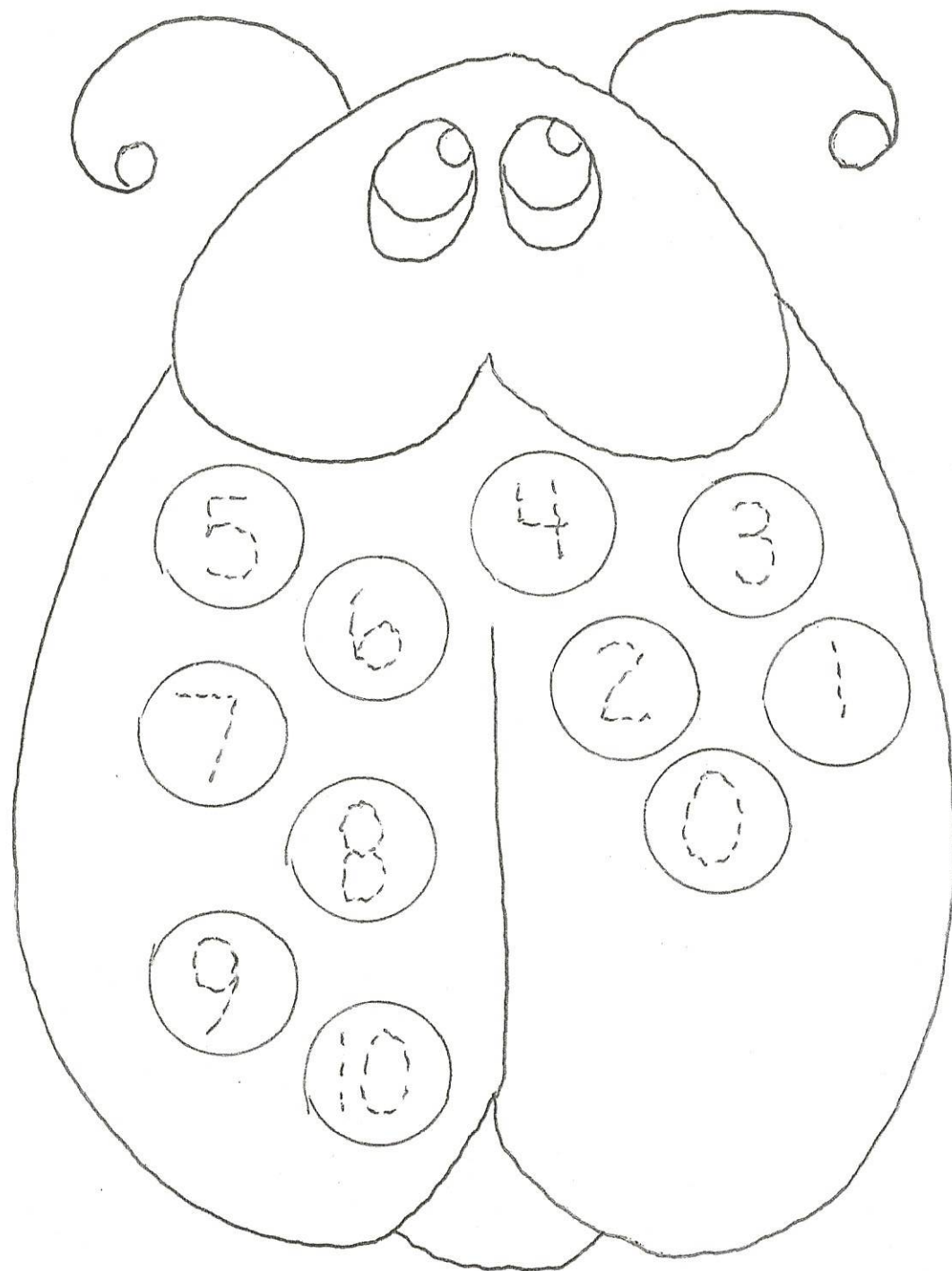
10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1-0 blast off as you round the bases.
School is here. It's time for a wonderful year.



Way cool! Look who's hopping off to school!

When there are 11 days before school starts,
start counting the days.
TRACE the number and COLOR a circle around the frog
You can color each dot a different color if you want to.
Soon it will be time for the 1st day of school!
What a nice keepsake.

10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1-0 blast off!
School is here. It's time for a wonderful year.



Hooray! I've been spotted going to school today!

When there are 11 days before school starts,
start counting the days.

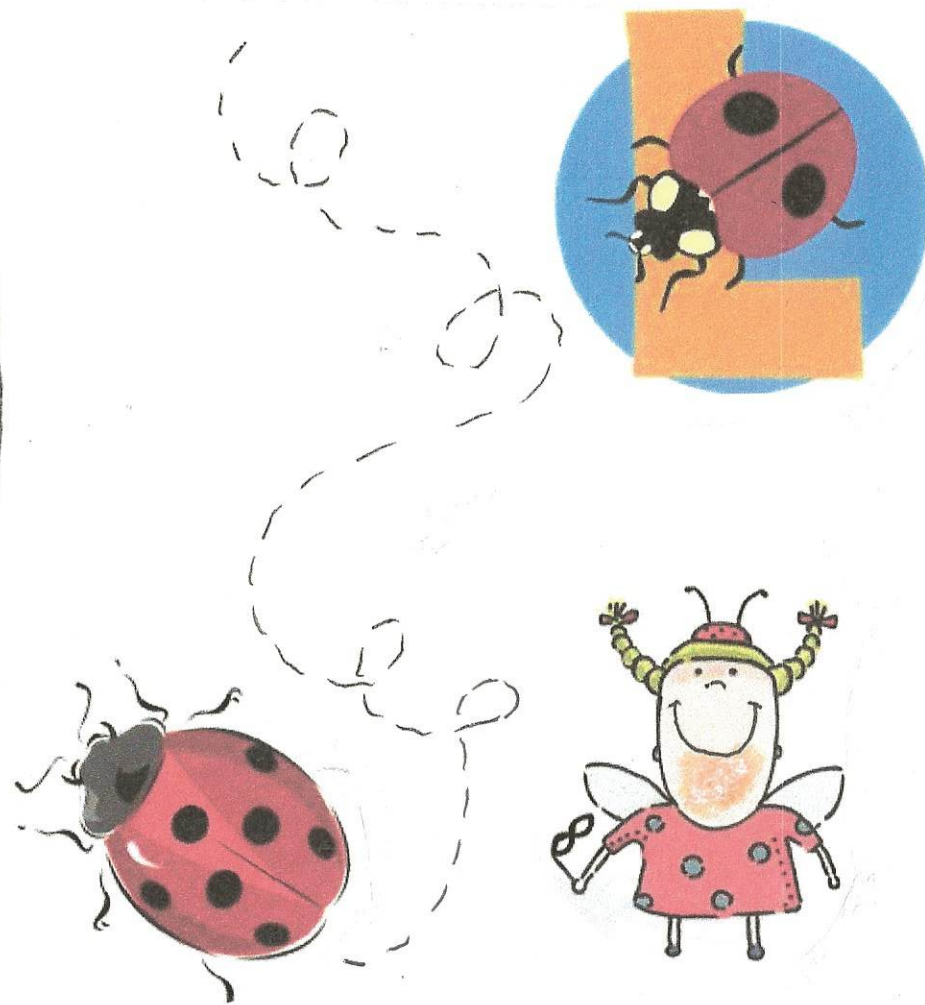
TRACE the number and COLOR a spot on the ladybug.
You can color each spot a different color if you want to.

Soon it will be time for the 1st day of school!

What a nice keepsake.

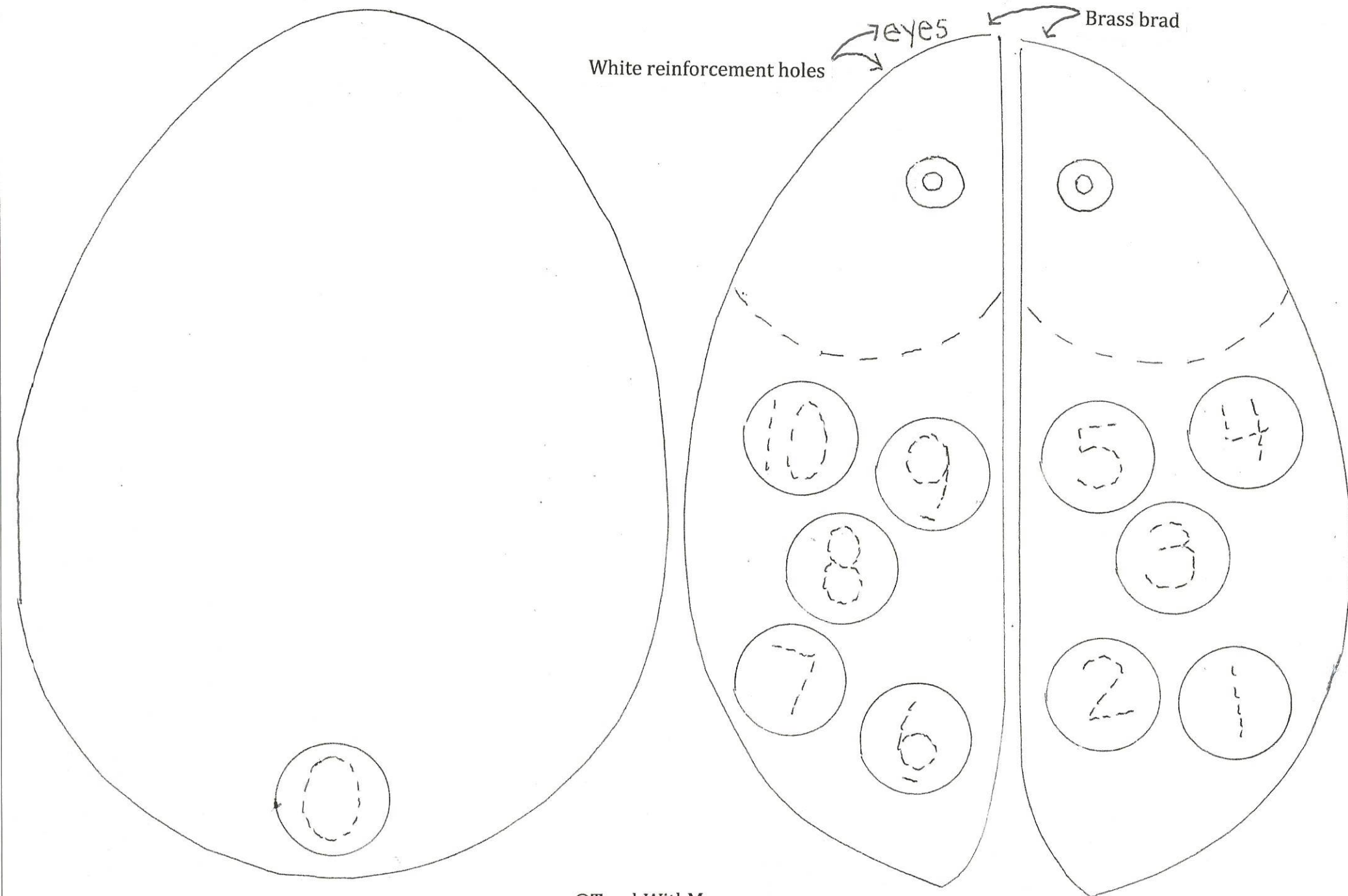
10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1-0 blast off!

School is here. It's time for a wonderful year.



Red construction paper.

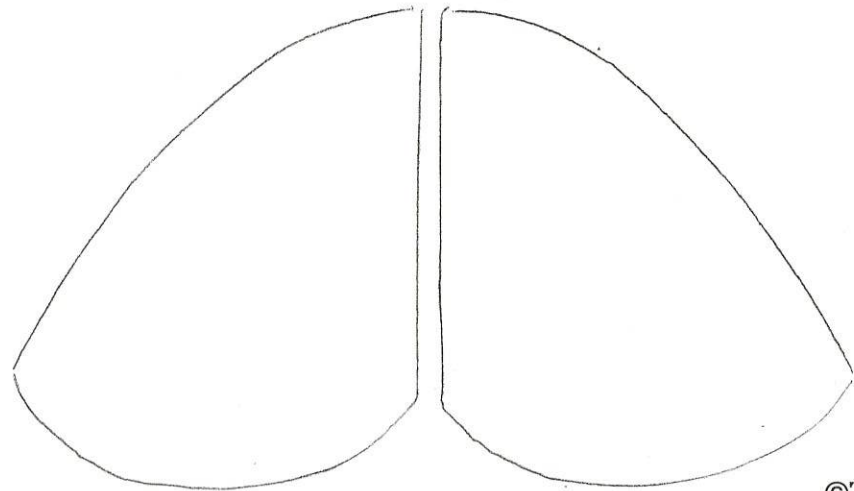
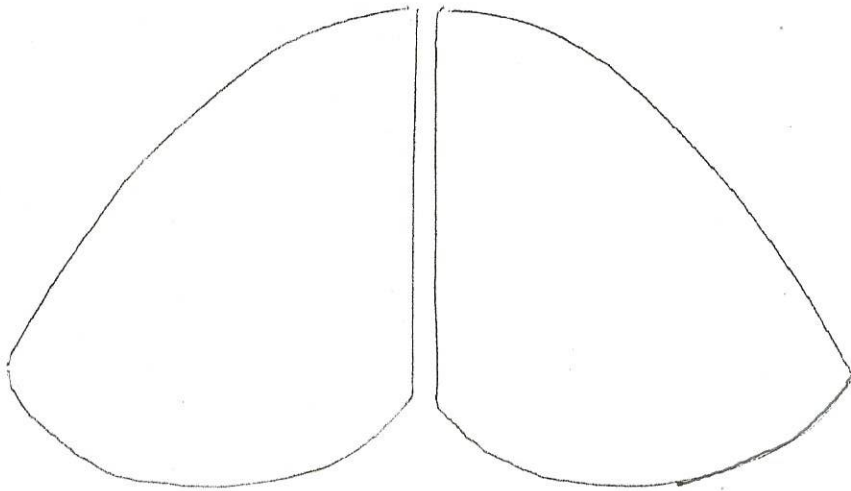
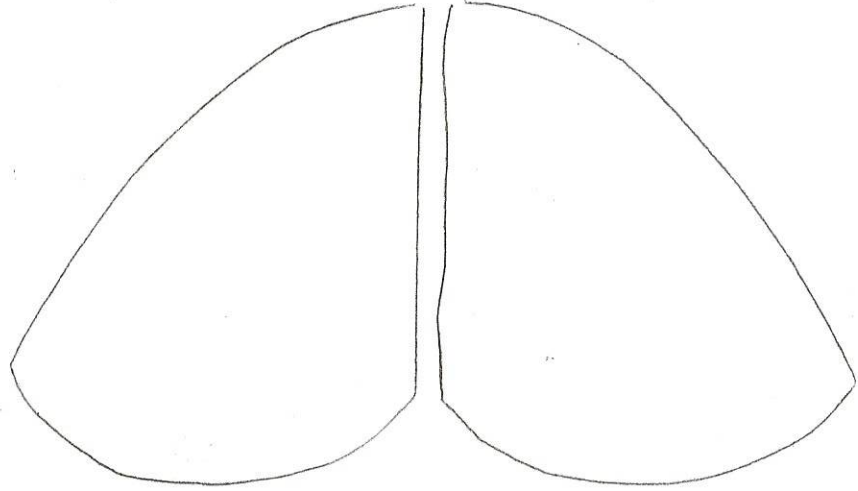
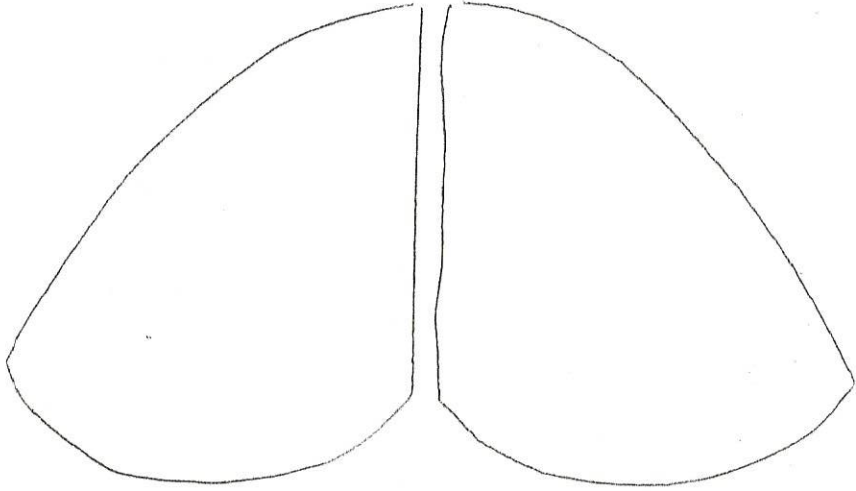
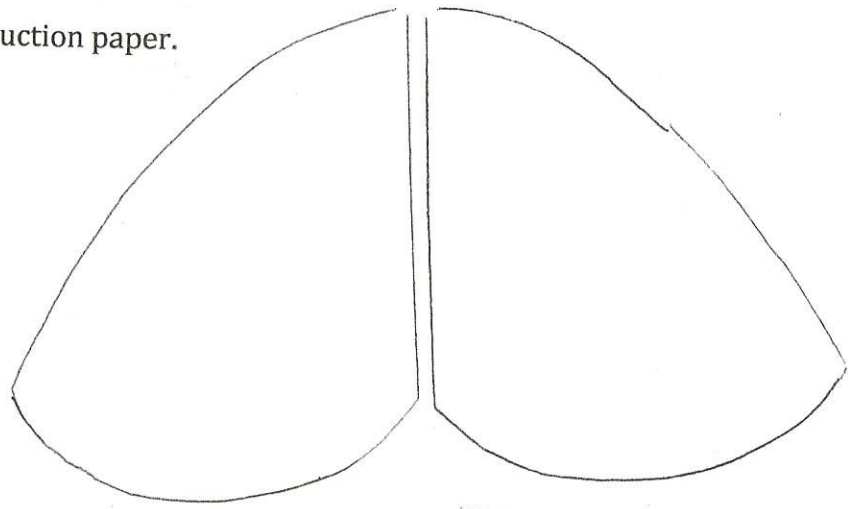
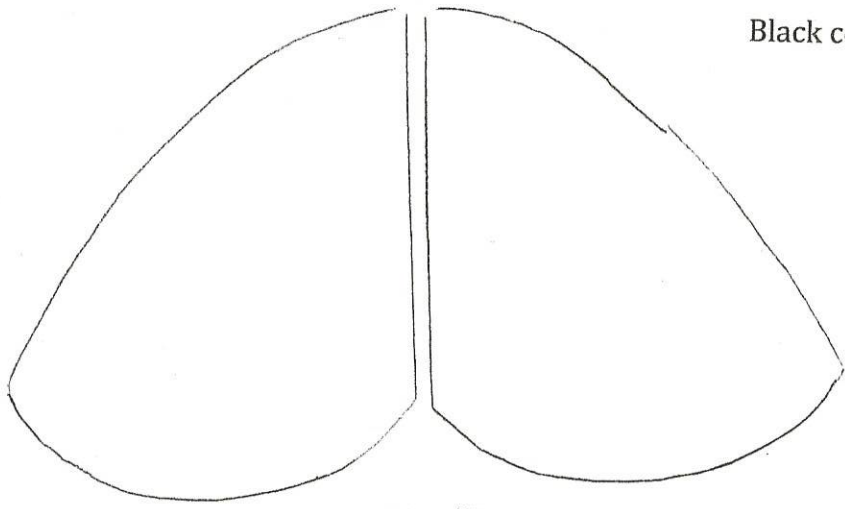
You can opt to do a simple count down lady bug,
or the ladybug can also be an art project.





Hooray!
1st day.
I'm on
my way!

Black construction paper.



Give your students the pieces in a Baggie at Open House •



Print off the ladybugs, cut them out and give one to each one of your students.

Students glue their bug to the inside (under piece) of their ladybug countdown.

This is the piece that has the 0 on it.

Ladybug should be glued above the zero.

See photo.