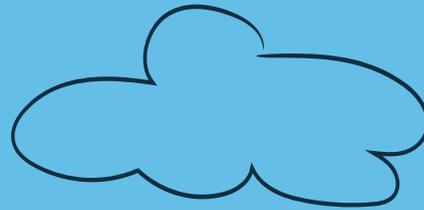
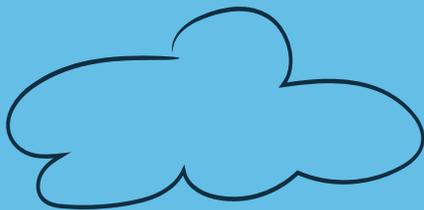


# At Home Learning Guide for Kindergarteners (5 years old)

Week of April 20, 2020



Earth Day on April 22 is the perfect opportunity to talk about nature! This week's activities will focus on what we can do to care for the Earth.

On Friday, your child will have the opportunity to take that message to the world with their very own Public Service Announcement.

Along with Earth Day activities, they will learn the *eep*, *eet*, and *eel* word families and practice subtraction to keep their phonics and math skills fresh.

## What you'll find in this guide. . .

We've organized this content the way your child would be learning it in their center, but you and your child can choose your own adventures and do the activities in any order.

### MONDAY

#### Physical Activity: Around the World

They shoot, they score! This throwing game will keep your child's hand-eye coordination sharp.



### TUESDAY

#### Math Activity: Subtraction Number Sentences Game

In this activity, your child will practice writing and solving simple subtraction "sentences," such as "4 - 2 = 2."

### WEDNESDAY

#### Literacy Activity: *Meredith's Gift*

Your child will learn about nature in this story about family and gardening.

### THURSDAY

#### Phonics Activity: *Beep Beep Little Book and Word Families*

Discover new word families (*eep*, *eet*, and *eel*) in this short story about a jeep that goes beep.

### FRIDAY

#### Science and Technology: Public Service Announcements

Bring the week's learning together with this video project about making change in the world!

### EVERYDAY LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Pick an activity to weave learning experiences into your everyday routines—no preparation needed!

## FOCUS ON SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Read the recently released infographic, "[What is COVID-19 and How Does it Relate to Child Development?](#)" by the Center on the Developing Child from Harvard University.





## Getting Ready for the Week: Materials to Gather

- ❑ Cardboard box, medium or large with an open top
- ❑ Lightweight ball or ball of crumpled newspaper or paper
- ❑ Masking tape
- ❑ Two dice
- ❑ Paper
- ❑ Pencil
- ❑ Marker
- ❑ Set of items to count, such as small blocks, buttons, or beads
- ❑ [“Meredith’s Gift” story](#)
- ❑ [“Beep Beep Little Book”](#) (this book can be printed, if you have access to a printer)
- ❑ Device capable of taking video, such as a digital camera on an iPad, tablet, or smartphone
- ❑ Movie-making app or software, such as iMovie
- ❑ Printed [Storyboard and Script](#) page, or create your own by drawing boxes on a sheet of paper
- ❑ Sample public service announcements:
  - ❑ [Stop-Motion Recycling PSA](#)
  - ❑ [Help the World Become a Clean Place PSA](#)
  - ❑ [Stop Motion Air Pollution PSA](#)



**Tip:** At the beginning of your week, gather materials and place them in a container so you’re ready to go!



## MONDAY

### Physical Activity: Around the World

They shoot, they score! This throwing game will keep your child’s hand-eye coordination sharp.



**Length of activity:**  
10–15 minutes\*

\*Duration will vary depending on your child’s interest.

**Level of Engagement Required by Adult:** Low



**Level of Prep Required:** Medium



#### What you need:

- Cardboard box, medium or large with an open top
- Lightweight balls or ball of crumpled newspaper or paper (up to five)
- Masking tape

#### What your child is learning:

- Practicing throwing skills
- Hand-eye coordination
- Working toward accomplishing a goal

**What you do:** Place the box with the open side facing up in the center of an open space in your home. Use the masking tape to mark five X’s on the floor around the box.

Invite your child to select one X to begin the game. Have them shoot the ball from that X until they make it into the box. Ask them how many balls made it into the box. Then collect the balls and move to the next X. Continue moving from one X to the next until they have made a shot from each to make it “around the world.”

Ask your child from which X they did best. Why do they think it was their best spot? You can make the game more challenging by increasing the distance of the X’s from the box after each trip around the world. You can even move the game outdoors if you have a good space to play!

**If your child is ready:** Increase the difficulty of the game by placing obstacles between the X and the box. For example, place a chair between an X and the box. Or, choose a box with a smaller opening.



## TUESDAY

### Math Activity: Subtraction Number Sentences Game

In this activity, your child will practice writing and solving simple subtraction “sentences,” such as “ $4 - 2 = 2$ .”



**Length of activity:**  
15–20 minutes\*

\*Duration will vary depending on your child’s interest.

**Level of Engagement Required by Adult:** High



**Level of Prep Required:** Low



**What you need:**

- Two dice
- Paper
- Pencil
- Set of items to count (counters), such as small blocks, buttons, or beads

#### What your child is learning:

- Counting and writing numbers under ten
- Subtracting numbers under ten
- Understanding subtraction (-) and equals (=) symbols

**What you do:** Fold a sheet of paper in half horizontally, and then fold it in half again. When the paper is unfolded, the fold lines will make four rectangular boxes. You and your child will write a number sentence in each box using the numbers on the dice.

Ask your child to roll the dice and count the dots to figure out which die is larger. If the dice have the same number of dots, roll again! Ask your child to count the dots on the die with the largest number. Write this number in one of the rectangles.

Then write a minus sign after the number. Explain that the minus sign is used to show subtraction. We “take away” the number after the minus sign from the number in front of the minus sign. Next, ask your child to count the number of dots on the smaller die. Write this number after the minus sign, followed by an equal sign. Explain that the equal sign is used to show the answer.

Help your child solve the number sentence using counters. First, use the counters to count out the number at the beginning of your number sentence. Then, counting out loud, take away the number of counters until you reach the second number. Count the remaining counters to find the answer. Once your child has the answer, write it after the equal sign.

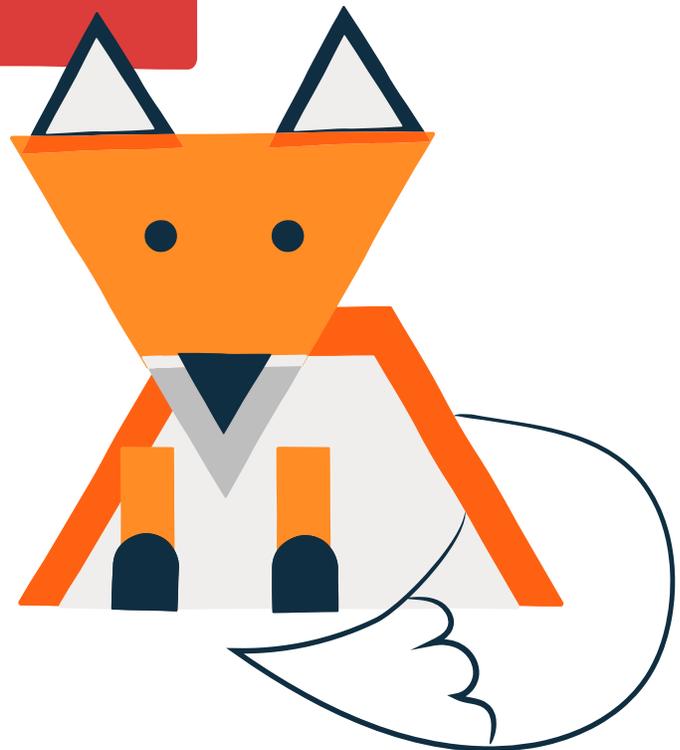
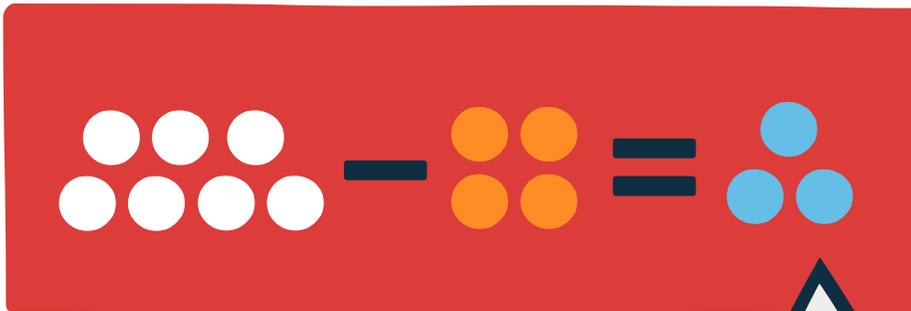


## TUESDAY

(continued)

Now, it's your child's turn to write the sentences! Help them practice the dice game three more times until they have filled out all the rectangles on the sheet of paper. Return to this game throughout the week to keep practicing.

**If your child is ready:** If your child is a pro at using counters to solve subtraction problems, try a different way! Some other subtraction strategies include counting on fingers or drawing and then crossing out dots on a paper. If your child is having a hard time with subtraction, switch to make it an addition activity. When they have that mastered, switch to subtraction. You could also ask them if they know the answer without counters, to build mental math skills.





## WEDNESDAY

### Literacy Activity: *Meredith's Gift*

Your child will learn about nature in this story about family and gardening.



**Length of activity:**  
15–20 minutes\*

\*Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

**Level of Engagement Required by Adult:** High



**Level of Prep Required:** Low



**What you need:**

- [Meredith's Gift story](#) (see the end of this guide)

### What your child is learning:

- How to identify the important events in a story
- How to make connections between stories and one's own experiences
- How people can help care for Earth

**What you do:** Tell your child that today, April 22, is Earth Day. Ask them what they know about Earth Day. Share that the first Earth Day was on April 22, 1970. The goal of Earth Day is to raise awareness about environmental issues such as climate change, littering, water pollution, and declining natural resources, and how people can combat these issues.

Read the story of *Meredith's Gift*. After reading the story, ask your child how the story might relate to Earth Day. How do the people in the story care for the Earth? For example, Meredith's grandmother enjoys gardening and appreciates what earthworms do to enrich the soil; Meredith's grandfather likes birds and builds birdhouses for nesting birds.

After discussing the story, invite your child to make suggestions for ways that they can help care for the Earth, such as recycling, turning off the water while brushing their teeth, reusing containers to store their toys, or even helping plant trees!

**If your child is ready:** Invite them to write their own Earth Day story about what they currently do to help care for the Earth or what they would like to do to help care for the Earth. Alternatively, help them to call (text, video) a classmate, friend or relative and make a pact to do one thing to help the environment. Your child can check back in a week to discuss their progress.



## THURSDAY

### Phonics Activity: *Beep Beep Little Book* and Word Families *eep*, *eet*, and *eel*

Your child looks for a specific item in a group of objects while gaining exposure to vocabulary and math in this fun animal-finding activity.



**Length of activity:**  
20–30 minutes\*

\*Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

**Level of Engagement Required by Adult:** High



**Level of Prep Required:** Low



**What you need:**

- [\*"Beep Beep Little Book"\*](#) (this book can be printed, if you have access to a printer)
- Paper
- Marker

#### What your child is learning:

- Recognizing and reading /ee/ words
- Building words using a word family
- The *eep*, *eet*, and *eel* word families as the ending sound in words

**What you do:** Fold a sheet of paper into thirds to create three equal columns. Write ee at the top of the paper. Explain that when two e's are put together, they make the /ee/ sound. Remind your child that you saw one of these words in last week's popcorn words: the word *see*!

Tell them that the book they are going to hear has lots of words with the /ee/ sound. Read *Beep Beep* to your child using the book you have printed or from the screen. Pause as you read to talk about the pictures. When you come to a word with the /ee/ sound, like green or jeep, emphasize the word.

Write the letters *eep*, *eet*, and *eel* at the top of each of the columns. Show your child how to blend the sounds in each word family together by sweeping your finger under the letters from left to right and lengthening the sounds, like /eeeepp/. Do this for each of the three word families.

Explain that *eep*, *eet*, and *eel* are word families, which are groups of words with the same ending, like *eep*. Tell your child that they will make Word Family houses for each of these word families. Under each heading, add words to the appropriate Word Family house, as shown below. Say each word aloud with your child as you write each one. Your child can write the words, if desired.



## THURSDAY

(continued)

### eep

beep  
deep  
jeep  
keep  
peep



### eet

beet  
feet  
meet



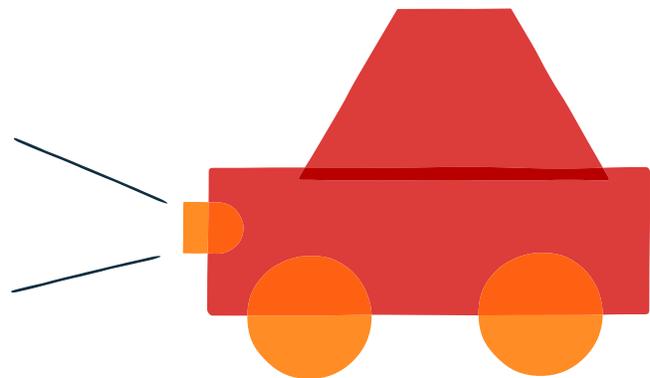
### eel

feel  
heel  
peel

Read the following sentences aloud and ask your child to clap every time they hear the /ee/ sound.

- *Keep your feet in the jeep.* (Three claps.)
- *The horn goes beep, beep.* (Two claps.)
- *The beet is deep red.* (Two claps.)
- *Look at the heels on my feet.* (Two claps.)
- *I will meet you by the jeep.* (Two claps.)

**If your child is ready:** Ask your child to choose a children's book. Read the book to them and ask them to clap if they hear a word with an *eep*, *eet*, or *eel*. You can also ask your child to look through the words in the story and see how many *eep*, *eet*, or *eel* words they can find.





## FRIDAY

### Science and Technology: Public Service Announcements

Bring the week's learning together with this video project about making change in the world!



#### Length of activity:

45 minutes–1 hour\*

(This activity can be done all at one time or in shorter amounts of time over the course of the weekend.)

\*Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

#### Level of Engagement Required by Adult: High



#### Level of Prep Required: High



#### What your child is learning:

- How people can help care for the Earth
- How to plan for and film short videos
- How to use technology to share a message with others

#### What you need:

- Device capable of taking video, such as a digital camera on an iPad, tablet, or smartphone
- Movie-making app or software, such as iMovie
- Printed [Storyboard and Script](#) page, or create your own by drawing boxes on a sheet of paper
- Sample public service announcements:
  - [Stop-Motion Recycling PSA](#)
  - [Help the World Become a Clean Place PSA](#)
  - [Stop Motion Air Pollution PSA](#)

**What you do:** Remind your child that Wednesday was Earth Day. Invite them to think again about the ways they can take care of the Earth. You might invite them to make suggestions for things they could do like:

- Create a recycle system of their own.
- List the ways to reuse or repurpose toys, containers or boxes.
- Plant a garden or create a compost.



## FRIDAY

(continued)

Ask your child if there is anything they wish other people would do to care for the Earth. Tell them that children around the country are trying to help others care for the Earth by creating public service announcements, also known as PSAs. Explain that public service announcements are short videos that let people know what they can do to help solve a problem or do good in the world. Show your child one or more of the PSA videos other children have created. Ask your child what topic the PSA introduced and the solutions or actions it suggested.

- How did it make you feel seeing other children create these PSAs?
- Was there one that you like more than the others? Why?

Invite your child to create their own PSA about one of the topics they were thinking about. If they need help figuring out what to do a PSA about, you can direct the conversation back to their ideas from earlier in the activity or make suggestions based on their interests.

Next, help your child create a storyboard and script for their PSA. A storyboard is a series of panels that lays out the scenes for a video. A script is the words that will accompany each scene. Here are some questions you could ask your child to help brainstorm:

- What should people do to make the world a better place?
- Could you show people how it's done?
- What good things will come out of taking this action?
- What could the world look like if more people did this?

This will help your child figure out what they want to show, do, and say in their PSA.

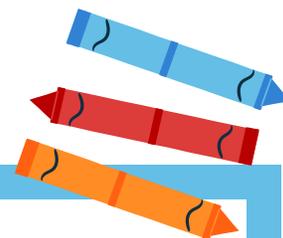
Finally, help them film their PSA using your video device! If you have a video editing app or software like iMovie, your child can experiment with filming, putting together multiple scenes, and using different effects. If you have a simpler video device, you can film the PSA in one take.

**If your child is ready:** You can make this activity as short or as complex as you want. Children could try stop motion, like the sample PSAs, using the Stikbot Studio app and toys or other objects. Children can keep filming and editing throughout the weekend or into the next week. If your child wants to, share the final product on your social media to give them a sense of accomplishment and let them see how the finished PSA reaches people!



### Storyboard and Script

Draw what happens in each frame.






## Everyday Learning Experiences

Pick an activity to weave learning experiences into your everyday routines—no preparation needed!

**1** This week we'll talk all about nature—so get out in it! Go for a walk or look out a window and point out features in the world around your child. Do all trees have leaves that look the same? Do the birds act differently in the spring than they did in the winter?

**3** This week's reading activity asks your child to think about how the characters might feel about Earth Day. These kinds of questions help children draw connections between stories and the world around them. After reading books or watching movies with your children, ask questions that relate the stories to their life. For example, if a character is very mad or very excited, ask your child if they have ever felt like that and why.

**5** Keep practicing subtraction using tips from last week's exercises. In addition to making up subtraction stories on the go, ask your child to try writing out the story as a sentence or drawing a picture to show the subtraction story visually and then writing the subtraction sentence underneath.

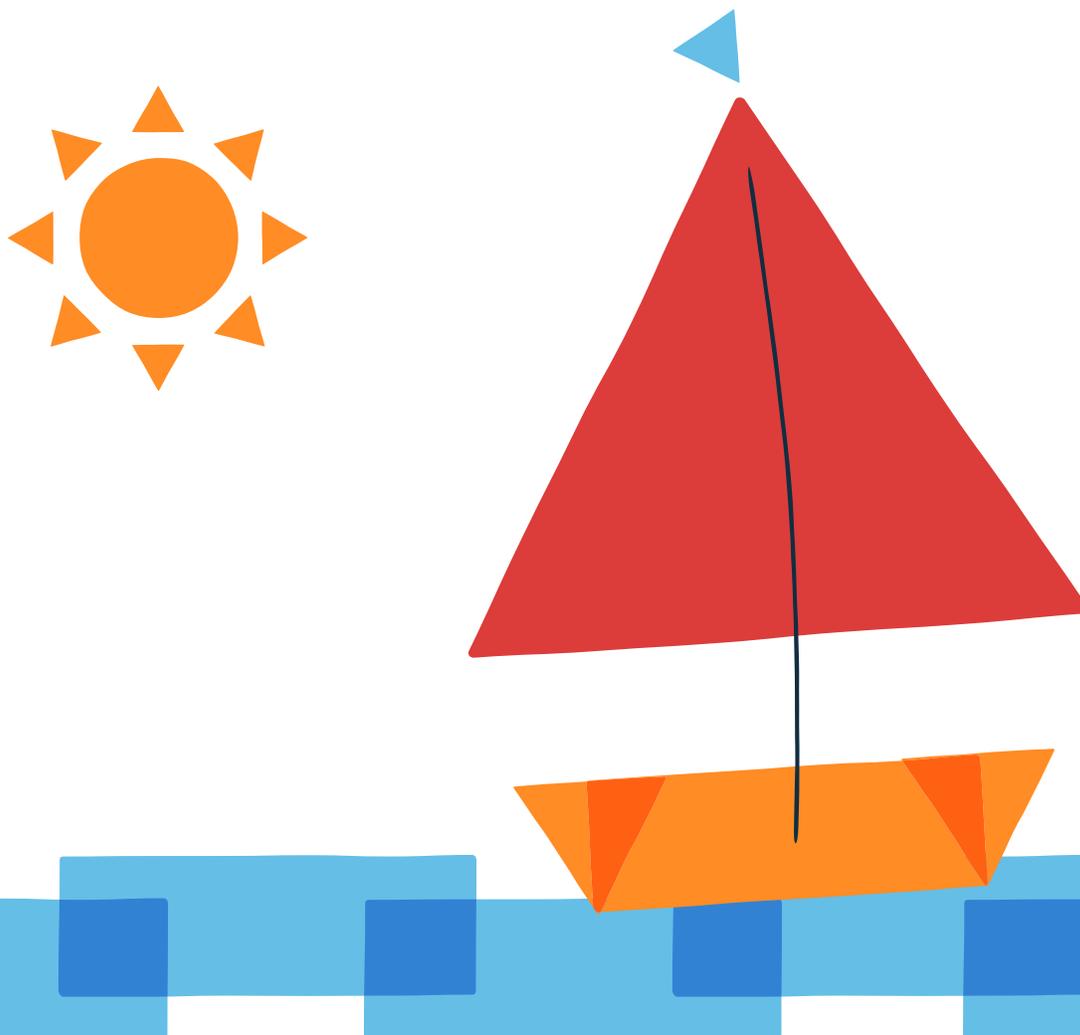
**2** Your child will learn how to read *ee* words in this week's phonics activity. Keep the learning going by looking out for *ee* words in your daily life! You might find these in other books, on signs, or in the names of objects around the house. Find a wall space in your home to put up the word family houses, and add new *eep*, *eet*, and *eel* words throughout the week.

**4** Prepare for Earth Day on Wednesday throughout the week by pointing out the things you and your family do to care for the Earth. Staying home and driving less counts! This will help your child learn about the ways we affect the world around us.



## Focus on Social and Emotional Learning

Social and emotional learning isn't just for children. It's also important that adults understand and take care of their own needs and stressors so that we are at our best for our children. For this week, we wanted to refer you to an [infographic](#) developed by the Center for the Developing Child at Harvard University that gives some quick pointers on how you can take care of yourself through this time. You can also go to their website for some great resources on child development in general that you might find interesting including, among so many other topics, brain development, play, helping your child deal with stress and build resilience, and self-regulation. Next week we'll have some targeted resources for you and your family on not just how to cope with the challenges that so many are facing, but how to use this time to build strong family bonds and help your child flourish!





## Meredith's Gift

Meredith held up the wiggling worm in front of her grandmother. "Ick," she said, "this worm is so slimy."

Meredith's grandmother Mimi nodded. Meredith set the earthworm back in the soil and resumed digging the hole for the flower she was planting. Grandma Mimi asked, "Did you know that even the smallest, slimiest earthworm is very important?"

"Important? How could a slimy thing like an earthworm be important?" wondered Meredith.

Her grandmother smiled and said, "I thought that might surprise you. Earthworms make tunnels underground. Every tunnel made by an earthworm allows air to flow through the soil. This is called aerating the soil, and aeration helps plants grow."

Meredith thought for a moment and then laughed again. "Yeah, but earthworms are still slimy!" Meredith and her grandmother finished planting the flowers. Grandma Mimi went inside the house, and Meredith joined her grandfather who was building birdhouses for the backyard.

"Pawpaw, can I ask you a question?"

"Sure you can, Meredith. Are you worried about something?"

"Well, it's just that Grandma Mimi's birthday is coming soon and I can't think of anything to get her. Daddy said he would give me money, but then it really wouldn't be a present from me."

Meredith's grandfather thought for a minute, and then said, "You know, you give grandma a present every time you help her in the flower garden."

Meredith frowned. "That's not the same. I want to do something to surprise her on her birthday." "Well," Grandpa said. "Have you heard her mention anything she might like for her birthday?" Meredith thought hard. Suddenly she smiled. She leaned over and whispered in her grandfather's ear.

"That is a great idea Meredith! She will love that gift," said Grandpa. "We will go next week and pick it out."

The next week, Meredith and her grandfather went to the garden store and bought Grandma Mimi's birthday gift. Meredith told her grandmother not to come outside because they were working on a surprise. Meredith and her grandfather planted it in the yard next to the driveway. Meredith tied a big blue bow around it because blue was her grandmother's favorite color.

"She'll love it!" said grandpa.



Then they went back inside to get Grandma Mimi. Meredith told her grandmother to close her eyes and not to peek until she told her it was okay. Meredith and her grandfather led Grandma Mimi to the gift outside. Then Meredith said, “Okay grandma, you can open your eyes now.”

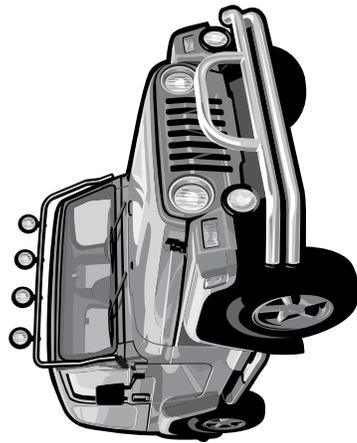
“A pear tree!” exclaimed her grandmother. “Oh, how did you know I’ve always wanted a pear tree! Meredith, you have chosen the perfect birthday gift for me. Thank you very, very much.” Her grandmother gave Meredith a big hug.

“Pawpaw helped me plant it and I am going to help you take care of it,” Meredith told her grandmother. Meredith felt good because she had given her Grandma Mimi the best present of all — something they could take care of together and enjoy for years to come.



## Beep Beep Little Book

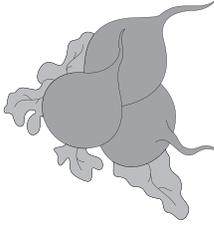
# Beep Beep



1

Beep Beep is a speedy green jeep.

Beep Beep lives on a beet farm.



2

Beech trees grow on the beet farm.

Three sheep feed on the beet farm weeds.



Beet seeds grow deep in the ground.

Bees in hives make sweet honey.

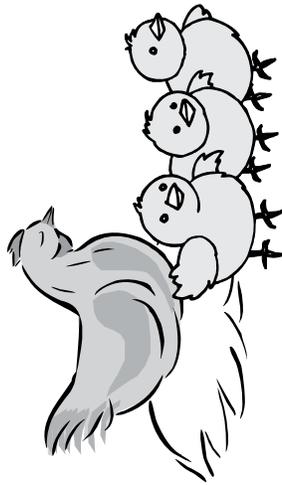


4



## Beep Beep Little Book

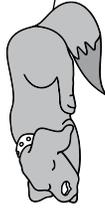
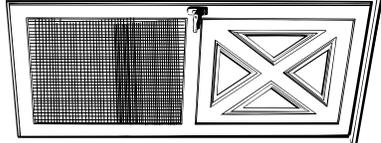
Hens sleep as chicks  
peep peep in the yard.



5

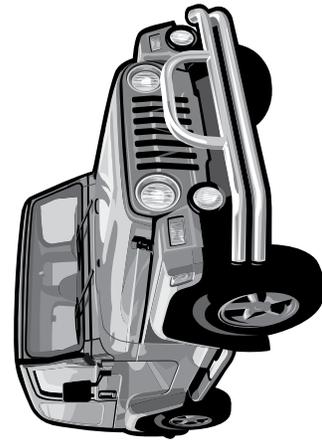
Beefy the bull eats  
beets.

Queeny the dog  
sleeps by the screen  
door.



6

Beep Beep is happy  
with all she sees.



7

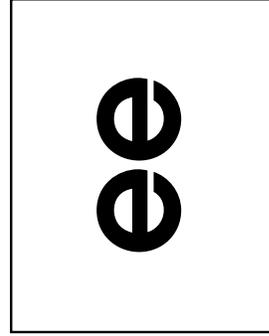
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