

pack the backpack

SENSORY BIN ACTIVITY



Lavinia Pop

SCHOOL SENSORY BINS

PACK THE BACKPACK



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Lavinia

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ILLUSTRATIONS Kari Bolt, Little Red, Dancing Crayon Designs, Whimsy Clips, PartyHead Graphics, Ramona Majdis, Zip-a-Dee-doo-dah-Designs, Bunny on a Cloud, Krista Wallden - Creative Clips, Creating4 the Classroom, Rainbow Sprinkle Studio - Sasha Mitten, First Class Clipart, ClipArtisan, Muggy Studio

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PRINTING TIP This resource is designed for US Letter paper. Print at Actual Size or 100% to preserve the intended card and mat dimensions. If printing on another paper size, select Fit or Shrink to Printable Area and use the same scaling setting for all related pages.

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Pack the Backpack

This hands-on school sensory bin activity invites children to choose a packing list, find and count the matching school supplies, and place them on the backpack mat. It is an engaging way to practice early math, following directions, and fine motor skills.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 1 full-page backpack mat
- 12 school supply pieces: pencils, crayons, erasers, and glue bottles
- 20 ready-to-use packing list cards
- 4 blank packing list cards for creating your own quantities
- Teacher directions
- Illustrated How to Play card
- More Ways to Play card
- Sensory Bin Setup & Safety guide
- Storage label

LEARNING FOCUS

- Counting quantities 0–4
- Numeral recognition
- One-to-one correspondence
- Understanding zero
- Visual matching
- Comparing quantities

MORE WAYS TO PLAY

Extend learning with Roll and Pack, Make Your Own Packing List, and Count and Compare activities.

PERFECT FOR

- Sensory bins
- Math centers
- Morning tubs
- Small groups
- Independent practice
- Intervention
- Homeschool learning

RECOMMENDED FOR

Preschool • Pre-K • Transitional Kindergarten • Kindergarten • Homeschool

Happy Teaching :)

Sensory Bin Setup & Safety

Sensory bins provide engaging opportunities for hands-on learning, but all materials should be selected and used with the needs of your learners in mind.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- Print the required pages on cardstock.
- Cut out the activity pieces and laminate them for durability, if desired.
- Choose a shallow tray or sensory bin that allows children to reach the materials comfortably.
- Add a sensory filler appropriate for your learners.
- Place the printable pieces throughout the filler. Some pieces can remain partly visible to encourage searching and discovery.
- Add child-safe tweezers, tongs or scoops when appropriate.

SAFETY INFORMATION

- Adult supervision is required at all times.
- These activities include small loose parts that may present a choking hazard.
- Not intended for children under 3 years of age.
- Do not use with children who mouth classroom materials.
- Check all materials for allergies and sensory sensitivities before use.
- Choose fillers and tools that are appropriate for the age, abilities and needs of your learners.
- Inspect the materials before each use and remove any damaged pieces.
- The supervising adult is responsible for determining whether each material is suitable for the children using it.

CHOOSING A FILLER

Suggested fillers vary by activity and are shown on each Teacher Directions page. Consider the age of your learners, allergies, sensory preferences, and classroom policies when selecting a filler.

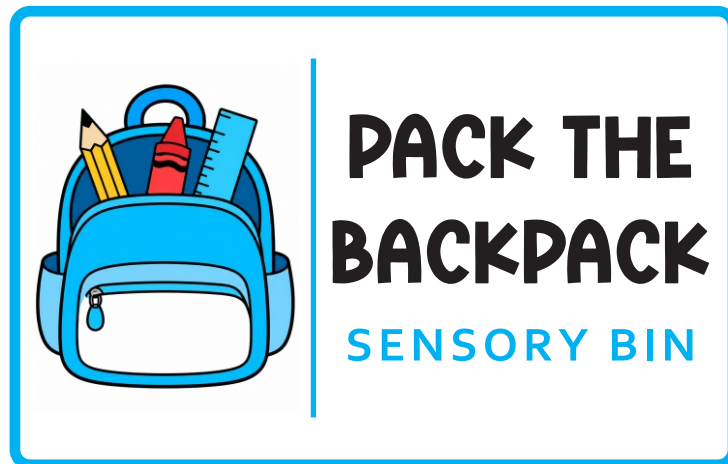
Sensory fillers, containers, tools, and loose parts are not included with this printable resource.

STORAGE AND CARE

- Store each activity in a separate labeled bag or container.
- Keep all printable pieces and teacher directions together.
- Count the pieces before and after use.
- Wipe laminated pieces clean with a slightly damp cloth.
- Allow all materials to dry completely before storing them.
- Replace any pieces that become damaged, torn or difficult to clean.

Happy Teaching!

STORAGE LABELS



PACK THE BACKPACK

Teacher Directions



YOU WILL NEED

- Backpack mat
- School supply pieces
- Packing list cards
- Sensory bin and filler
- Optional tweezers or tongs

PREPARATION

1. Print on cardstock.
2. Laminate for durability.
3. Cut apart the packing list cards and school supply pieces.
4. Add the pieces to the sensory bin.

HOW TO PLAY

1. Choose a packing list card.
2. Find and count each school supply.
3. Place the supplies inside the backpack.
4. Clear the mat and choose another card.

DIFFERENTIATION

Begin with the first five cards, which use quantities of 1 and 2. Progress to cards with larger quantities and totals. Introduce the two cards containing 0 when children are ready to understand that 0 means none.

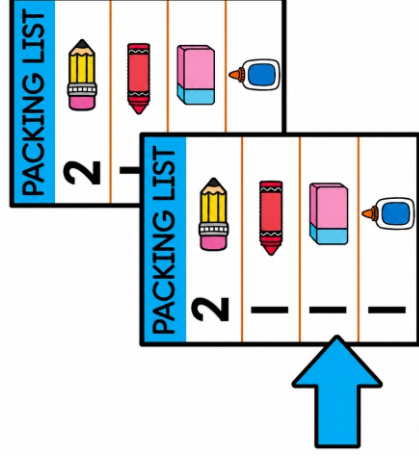
LEARNING FOCUS

Counting • One-to-one correspondence • Number recognition
• Understanding zero • Following visual directions
• Fine motor skills

PACK THE BACKPACK

How To Play

1



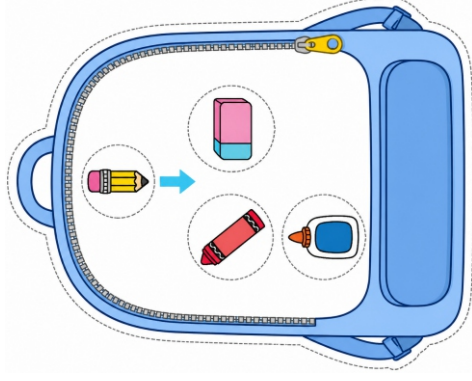
Choose a list.

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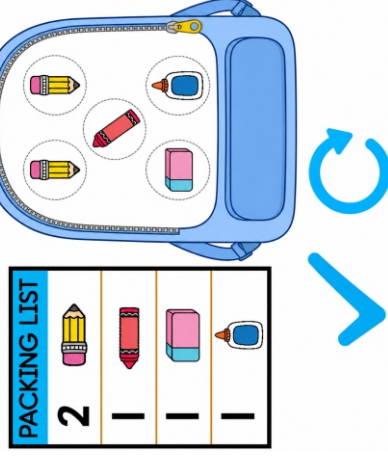
Find and count.

3



Pack the backpack.

4

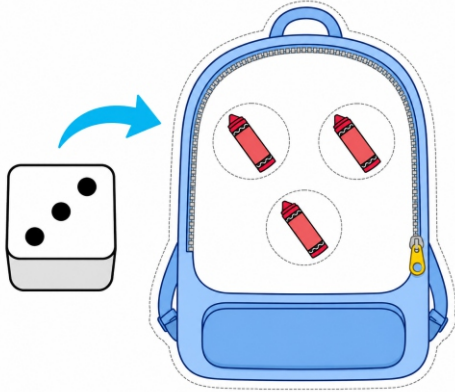


Check and play again.

PACK THE BACKPACK

More Ways to Play

1



ROLL AND PACK

1. Choose one school supply.
2. Roll a die.
3. Find and place that many matching pieces on the backpack mat.
4. Clear the mat and play again.

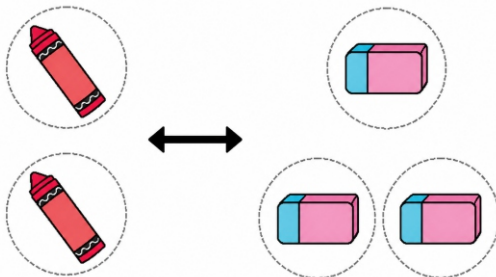
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MAKE YOUR OWN PACKING LIST

1. Write a number beside each supply on a blank packing list card.
2. Find, count and pack the correct quantity of each item.

3

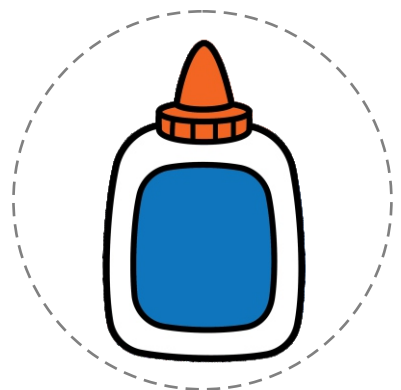
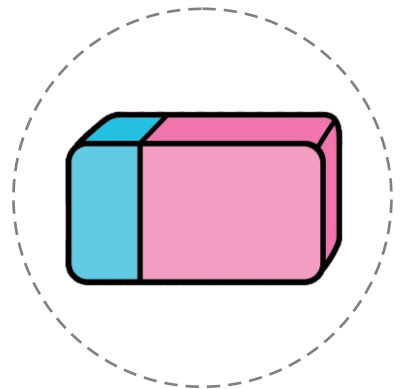
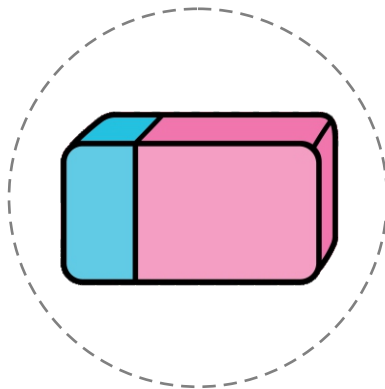
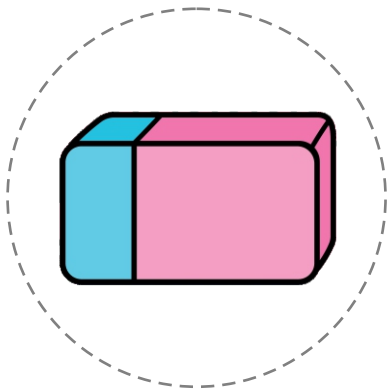
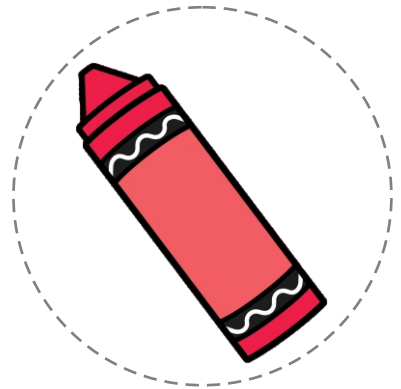
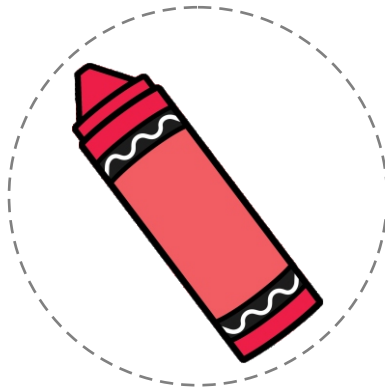
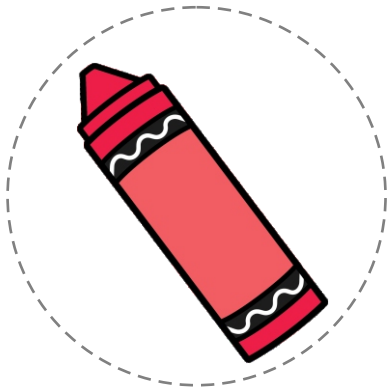
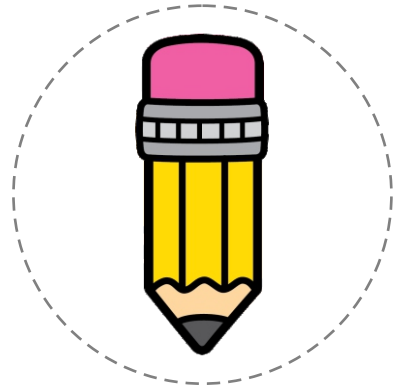
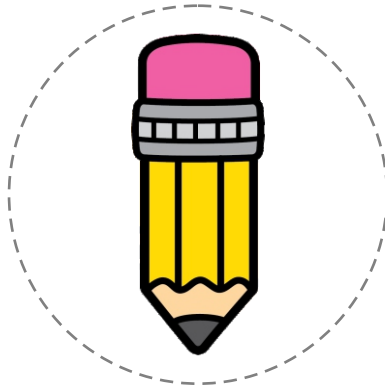
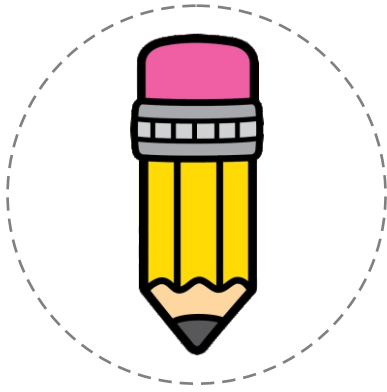


COUNT AND COMPARE

1. Choose two types of school supplies.
2. Find and count a group of each.
3. Compare the groups. Which has more? Which has fewer? Are they the same?

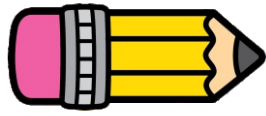
TEACHER TIP

Laminate the blank packing list cards for repeated use with dry-erase markers.



PACKING LIST

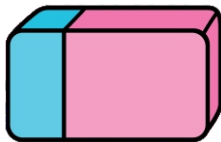
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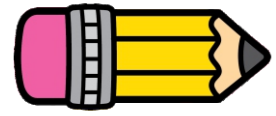
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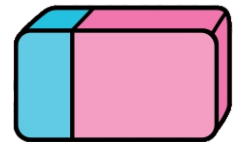
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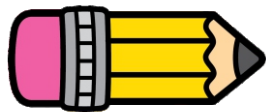
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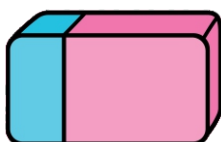
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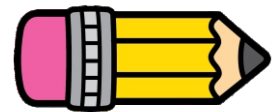
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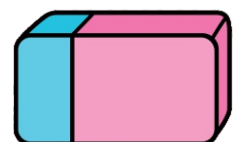
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