

**\*Good teaching is one-fourth preparation and three-fourths theater.**

**-Gail Godwin\***

**PROPS** need not be elaborate. Throughout the year I pick up objects to use as props at end of the season sales such as plastic garden insects. Discount, dollar, party and odd lot stores are great places to find interesting props.

**MUSIC** can add a great deal to a story telling session by setting the mood. I find that tapes of birdsong, thunderstorms or meadow sounds are great to use when reading nature books. The sound of running water takes you to the pond or river. I use old cowboy songs when I am going to read **Buster Goes To Cowboy Camp**. Check out iTunes for music, usually 99 cents a song.

**LIGHTS** (old twinkle lights) punched through a board can set the stage for night time stories. A colored light, such as red or blue can create a whole new atmosphere in the room. A flashlight covered with colored cellophane creates an eerie glow.

**BODY MOVEMENTS** add excitement to a tale. They also help children understand and retain the meaning of a new word. Don't be afraid to act the fool. I like to use musical greeting cards to help the children loosen up before we start moving to the book.

**HATS** are an easy way to create a mood. Add a velcro band to a hat. Attach big blowzy tissue paper flowers or silk flowers with velcro dots to the hat for spring. Add a bird, bird's nest and butterfly. If objects are heavy you may want to use hot melt glue or safety pins to attach objects. A nest can be made from raffia.

Decorate a nutrition hat with plastic or fabric veggies.

Dangle snowflakes from the brim of a hat for winter.

Swirl autumn leaves around a straw hat for fall.

**\*It is the supreme art of the Teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.**

**-Albert Einstein\***

**CRAFTS** can extend the text and help with those small motor skills. Again, it need not be a costly venture have many simple, inexpensive crafts on my web site, [www.denisefleming.com](http://www.denisefleming.com), that can be used with my books or can be adapted for use with other author's books (I'll never know).

**DIVING FROG** - plastic soft drink bottle, food coloring, water, baby oil, stretchy frog, super glue, vinyl tape. Plastic flies are optional.

**RAINBOW TOSS** - colored cellophane cut into strips, aluminum foil.

**RAIN STICK** - plastic bottle filled with toothpicks and rice.

**THUNDER TUBE** - I have tried unsuccessfully to make a thunder tube. Now I just order them from [thundertube.com](http://thundertube.com).

**MASKS, CHARACTER HATS, and HANDMADE PAPER** directions and patterns along with word scrambles, crosswords and finish the picture coloring pages are just some of the activities and crafts that can be downloaded from [www.denisefleming.com](http://www.denisefleming.com).

**OTHER IDEAS** - Appliance boxes are magical. As a child I was constantly dragging home refrigerator boxes. Have the children make a school bus, bookmobile, a bear's cave or a reading nook using the big boxes. A decorated box could be a place for quiet reading. Cut a hole in the top of box and cover it with colored cellophane.

Have the children make their own recordings of books. Use a bell to designate page turns.

WORD PLAY Crazy about verbs! Collect action words. Act out the various words. Here are some words to get you started - skitter, scoot, shuffle, dash, trudge, glide. Print words on index cards, one word to a card, keep in file box.

NOW REMEMBER VISIT **denisefleming.com**

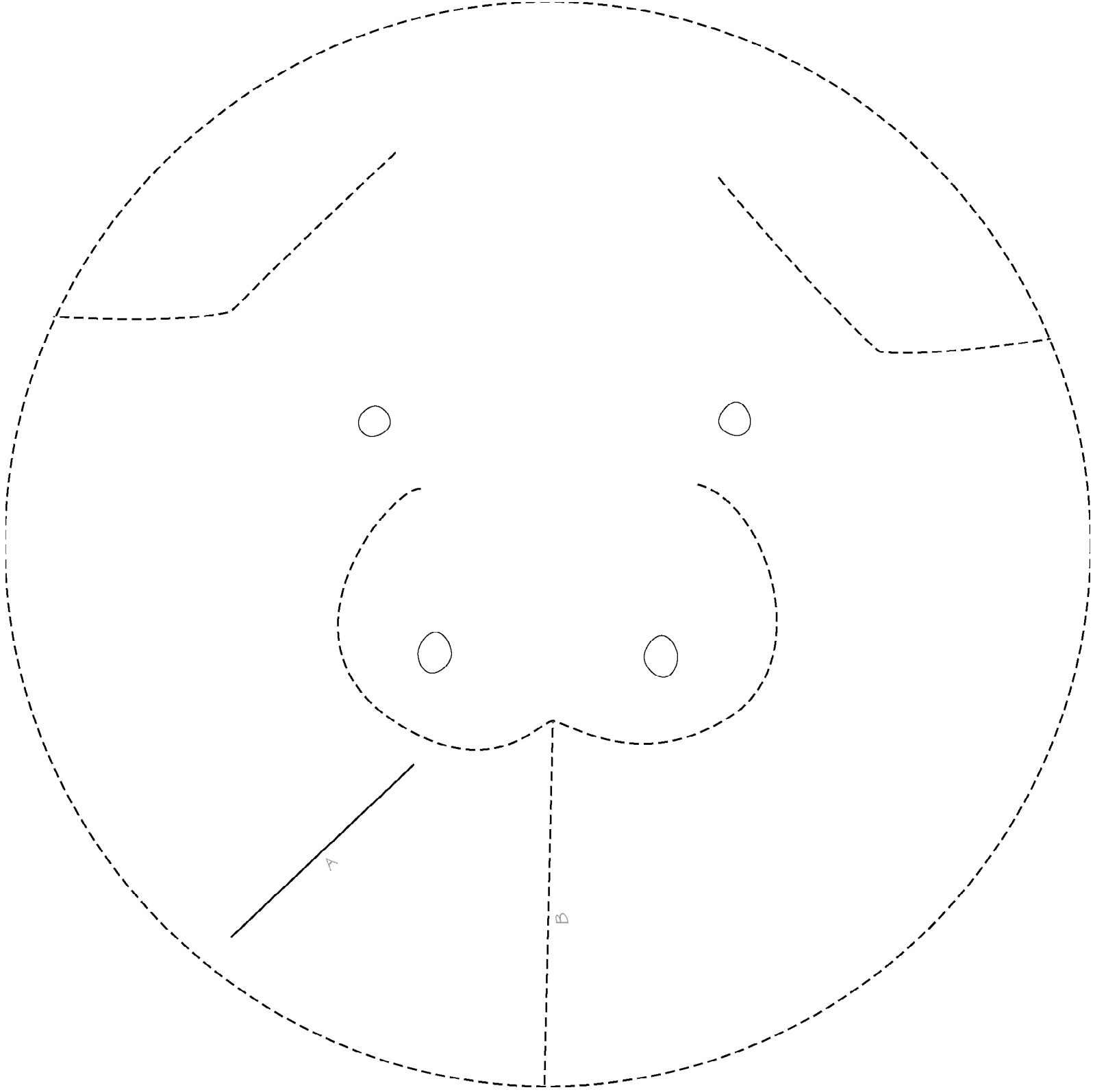
I also have a page on facebook and a newsletter, **The Chatter Chronicles**. Both can be accessed through my website. I share crafts and activities in my newsletter and book info on facebook.

[blog.denisefleming.com](http://blog.denisefleming.com)

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## PIG

1. Cut on **dotted** lines, discarding shaded areas.  
**Do not cut solid lines!**
2. Line up edge **B** with line **A** — staple.
3. Bend ears up slightly.

# I AM YOUR CHILD AND I NEED YOU BADLY

Fred Malsom

Please look at me carefully the next time you see me.

Please notice that I am small and weak.

Please listen carefully the next time you see me.

Please notice that I don't know much.

Like you, I was born helpless. And growing up so I can  
take care of myself, will take a long time, too.

I need food. I need rest. I need to be kept clean.

I need to be kept warm in winter and cool in summer.

I need to be taken in your arms or sat on your lap.

I need to feel your skin against my skin.

I need your help to heal my hurts.

I need you to play with just so you and I can have good times together.

I need you to teach me everything you can so I'll have a chance  
in this world when I grow up.

I need your patience. I know I'm not very orderly. I cry out for  
things like food and attention the second I need them.

I can't help it, and I know that bothers you sometimes.

All I can hope is that you will be patient with me until  
I can learn to be patient too.

Above all, I need to know you love me. Even if your parents  
gave you no love, try to give a little to me so I can give a  
little to my children and they can give a little to their children.

I need so much from you, yet I have only one thing I can give  
you in return, That is my love.

Today and tomorrow and as long as I live.