

5 Sing a Song

The classic children's song "Where is Thumbkin?" is usually sung as a conversation between the various fingers. Change the words to act out a conversation between the Picture Pals.

- Start with both Picture Pals behind your back, where your child can't see them, and sing these words:

"Where is Doggy? Where is Doggy?"

"Here I am, here I am." (Bring out the dog.)

"How are you today, Sir?"

"Very well, I thank you." (Dog bows.)

"Run away, run away." (Return the dog behind your back.)

- Repeat with the same actions, using the bear this time and changing the first line to:

"Where is Little Bear? Where is Little Bear?"

- End with:

"Where are Dog and Bear? Where are Dog and Bear?"

"Here we are, here we are." (Bring out both Picture Pals.)

"How are you today, Sirs?"

"Very well, we thank you." (Picture Pals bow to each other.)

"Run away, run away." (They disappear behind your back in opposite directions.)

6 Show and Tell

Finishing this Picture Pals project will make your child very proud. Reinforce that excitement and sense of achievement by helping her show the craft to a neighbor, friend, or family member. The opportunity to describe the steps necessary to complete the craft project will give your child's verbal skills a terrific workout.



Let's Make™ Picture Pals!

A LETTER FROM THE EDITORS...

What makes PARENTING's craft kits special? Our Preschool Projects at Home encourage creativity, promote self-esteem, and help kids develop fine motor skills—but most of all, they're safe and fun!

These kits, designed for ages 3 and up, have been tested by developmental experts as well as by children and parents to ensure they'll both enrich and entertain. All the materials you'll need are included.

There's no one "right way" to do each project, so your child can feel free to add his or her own personal touches. And once the project is done, your child will enjoy playing with it for hours to come. On the following pages, we offer some unique activity ideas.

PARENTING's Preschool Projects at Home also call for your involvement, which means you get to have hands-on fun along with your child—and you don't have to be an artist or a teacher to create these appealing treasures.

Enjoy!

The Editors of PARENTING

1 Talk About Growing Up

- When selecting photos to use for your Picture Pals, gather four pictures of your child at different ages: as a newborn, as an older baby, as a toddler, and a more recent shot.
- Ask your child to line them up according to age: "Which one comes first?" "Which one shows you when you're about a year old?"
- Place the two baby pictures in the slots on the Picture Pals and pretend the animals are babies: "Baby Bear needs his bottle." "Baby Dog is going to sleep now."
- Then insert the two recent pictures and act out appropriate activities: "Look! Bear is big now! He's jumping!" "Look! Dog is big now! He's dancing!"

2 Best Guesses

- If each Picture Pal has a photo of your child inside the slot, remove one of the photos. Turn both Picture Pals so their backs face your child and she can't see which animal holds the photo.
- Ask: "Where's [your child's name]?"
- Your child points to the animal she thinks has the photograph, then you turn both around so she can see if she's right.
- Repeat, moving the picture from one pal to the other; add to the fun by having the animals swap places as well.

3 Play a Game

What Do Dog and Bear Like to Eat?

- Cut out pictures of food from magazines or newspapers.
- Spread the pictures on a table or the floor, and ask your child: "What does Bear like to eat?"
- When he names a food or points to a picture, insert it into the slot on the bear. Make the bear dance happily in front of him, saying, "Yes, Bear likes to eat oranges!"
- Repeat the activity with the dog: "Yes, Dog likes to eat hot dogs!" With your child, act out a conversation between the Picture Pals: "I like to eat oranges!" "Well, I like hot dogs better!"

4 Draw a Picture

- Since each Picture Pal holds a photograph of her, your child has been thinking about what she looks like. Build on this theme by helping her draw a self-portrait.
- On a large piece of paper, help her sketch a simple outline of a face, complete with eyes, mouth, and hair.
- While she looks at the photos on her Picture Pals, ask her: "What color is your hair?" "What color are your eyes?" "What color is your skin?"
- Help her color in the features on the sketch with crayons that match her coloring.