

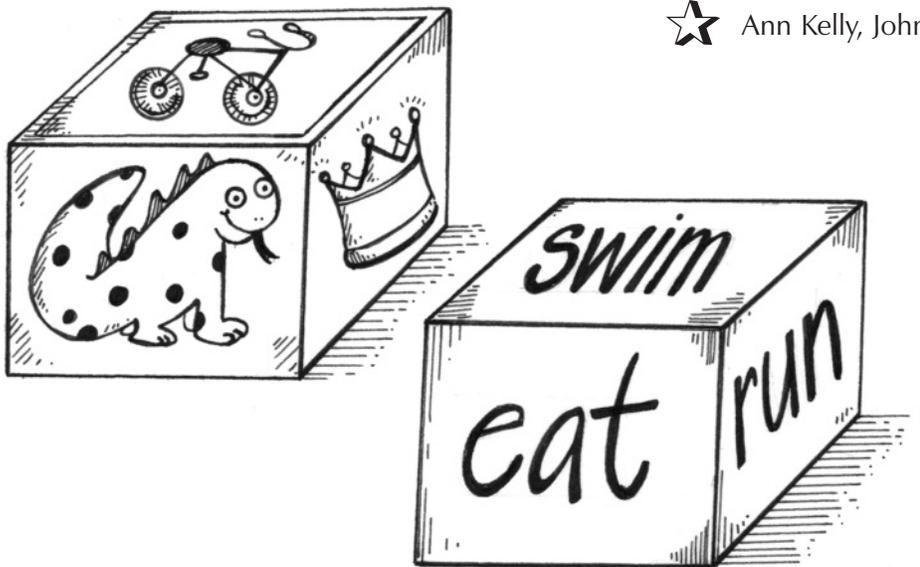
Character Cubes

Materials

4 clean, cardboard ½-gallon milk cartons • scissors • paper • tape • markers • contact paper

What to do

1. Make two dice by cutting the milk cartons in half and sliding the bottom of one carton inside another (two cartons make one cube).
2. Cut paper into 12 pieces. Cover each side of the cubes with a piece of paper and tape in place.
3. On one die, draw six items in which the children are currently interested (for example, a dinosaur, truck, horse, princess, and so on).
4. On the other die, write six action words and draw a picture that represents the action (for example, swim, fly, fall, brush, shop, and so on).
5. Cover the cubes with contact paper.
6. Gather a small group of children. Model using the dice to create a crazy story. Roll the item die and make up something about the picture that is facing up. For example, "Once upon a time, there was a very small *dinosaur* that lived all alone in a very small apartment." Then have a child roll the action die and add to the story that you began. For example, "His apartment was surrounded by soup so when he wanted to go anywhere, he had to *swim*."
7. Keep adding to the silly story until every child has had a turn to roll a die.
8. If desired, write down or tape-record the silly story so that it can be shared with others and enjoyed again and again.



★ Ann Kelly, Johnstown, PA

Fairy Tale Dice

Materials

4 Styrofoam cubes • patterned adhesive paper • clear adhesive paper • white typing paper • scissors • tape • construction paper • markers • hole punch • yarn

What to do

Phase One: Prepare the dice

1. Help the children cover the cubes with the patterned adhesive paper.
2. Print the following words or phrases on small pieces of typing paper that are cut to fit the sides of the cubes: bear, boy, girl, cat, queen, king, small, large, old, new, messy, clean, hut, house, castle, cave, city, farm, the store, a friend's house, Grandma's house, into the woods, into town, and to the park.
3. Tape the words on the cubes in the following order:
 - ☆ Cube One: bear, boy, girl, cat, queen, king
 - ☆ Cube Two: large, old, new, messy, clean
 - ☆ Cube Three: hut, house, castle, cave, city, farm
 - ☆ Cube Four: the store, a friend's house, Grandma's house, into the woods, into town, to the park
4. Cover the completed cubes with clear adhesive paper for durability. You have now completed your set of Fairy Tale Dice.

Phase Two: Write the story

1. Begin the story like this: "Once upon a time there was a..."
2. Roll the first die. Whatever character lands on top is now your main character for the story.
3. Insert the character into the story. For example, if the die lands with the cat on top: "Once upon a time there was a cat..."
4. Continue the story like this: "...who lived in a very ..."
5. Roll the second die and insert whatever descriptive word lands on top. For example, "Once upon a time there was a cat who lived in a very messy ..."
6. Roll the third die and insert whatever type of residence lands on top. For example, "Once upon a time there was a cat who lived in a very messy hut."
7. Continue the story like this: "One day the cat decided to go ..."
8. Roll the fourth die and insert whatever lands on top. For example, "Once upon a time there was a cat that lived in a very messy hut. One day the cat decided to go into town."