

# Mary's Lamb

## MATERIALS

**FOR STUDENT:** (one per student unless otherwise noted)

- FloraCraft® Make It: Fun® Foam Balls: 2", 1 1/2" and half of a 1" ball
- Polyester fiberfill, handful
- Cardstock, white, four 1 1/2" squares
- Toothpick
- Pencil
- Washable black fine tip marker
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Paper plate
- Plastic zip-sealed bag (to hold after making)

## FOR TEACHER:

- Cardstock, 8 1/2" x 11", white (for ears & tail)
- Pencil
- Paper cutter
- Scissors
- Glue gun (for teacher only)
- Photocopier



## LANGUAGE ARTS

GRADE LEVEL

EARLY CHILDHOOD – PRE K

## COMPLETION TIME

- 30 minutes



## OBJECTIVES

Students learn:

- A popular children's nursery rhyme
- The sounds and cadence of rhymes
- To listen and follow step-by-step instructions
- The use of fine motor skills and afterwards, play

## STANDARDS

- Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables and sounds
- Recite songs, poems and stories with repeated rhyme
- Recognize and produce rhyming sounds
- Listen with comprehension and follow two-step directions

## TEACHER PREPARATION

*Note: Read through all the instructions first and check out the TIPS! It is recommended that you make one lamb first, before preparing the materials for any others, since knowing how the parts fit, might affect how you prepare. Have a glue gun plugged in and ready to use (ideally set on low temperature) but out of student reach. This can give you immediate adhesion when you're in a hurry to help the students. Be sure that the glue has cooled before returning the projects to the students.*

**[1]** Use the serrated knife to cut the 1" balls in half, one half per student (muzzle).

**[2]** Insert a toothpick into the 2" foam ball (body). Press the 1 1/2" foam ball (head) onto the other end. Use a glue gun between the foam balls before pushing them together. Hold the body with the head angled slightly to the right. Use a glue gun to attach the foam half-ball (muzzle) to the bottom of the head. (Also refer to Photo in the Instructions, Step 1.)

**[3]** For legs, use the paper cutter to cut four 1 1/2" squares white cardstock per student. Roll each square around a pencil and use the glue gun to hold the cylinder shape. Then glue four cylinder shapes together, with the seams in the middle (so that they don't show) pressing the ends on the table to be sure that they are aligned (so that they will stand).

With the body/head in the same position as when you attached the muzzle, press the body down onto the leg unit so that it goes into the foam 1/4". Dot legs/foam contact area with the glue gun in a couple of places, to secure. (Later, the glue will be covered by the fiberfill.)

Trace or photocopy the Ears/Tail patterns onto white cardstock. Cut apart (in groups of three) to give to the students. Use a pencil to write the student's name on one teardrop of each sheet.

**[4]** For each student, pull off a small handful of fiberfill. From that amount, separate a very small amount to later use for the top of the head. On a paper plate for each student, place: Lamb, glue stick, marker, scissors, Ears/Tail photocopy, and two amounts of fiberfill (on opposite sides of the plate).



[1]



[2]



[3]



[4]



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# INSTRUCTIONS

**[1]** Demonstrate and have the students use their marker to make the eyes as follows: Press the marker straight into the foam, half way down on the head (keeping the eyes low for a cute look – like a baby lamb.) Have them pull the marker straight back out fairly quickly so that ink doesn't have time to spread. If the dots are not dark enough, carefully place marker back into the indentation and twist the marker. Also make a nose that is centered, just below the eyes. Have the students replace their marker caps and set them back on their plates.



**[2]** Demonstrate and have the students locate their large handful of fiberfill. (Ask them to leave the small amount on the plate to use later.) Explain that fiberfill is used in pillows and stuffed animals but that now it's going to be used for the lamb's "fleece". Show them how to gently pull the fiberfill apart to make longer "strips" of it. Have them set the end of the strip against the neck of the lamb and lightly wrap it around the body. Show them how to continue lightly wrapping it, going down the body until they get to the legs. If a strip separates, have them start another strip where the last one stopped. Remove any excess fiberfill at the end of the last strip.



**[3]** Ask students to carefully cut out their two ears and one tail, (which is the one with their name on it.) Have them trim off the black outline as much as possible. To curve the paper ears and tail, have the students wrap them around their markers, or gently roll them against the edge of the table. (Note: Put the black outline toward the lamb, so that it doesn't show.)

Demonstrate and have them apply a small lump of glue stick to the top points of the teardrops and press them onto the sides of the head. Similarly, have them apply glue stick to the point of the tail and tuck it into the fiberfill, with the name down.



**[4]** The students may notice that the lamb looks more like a dog without the fleece on its head. Demonstrate and have students stretch the remaining fleece into a strip and wrap it around the top of the head. (If the lamb looks like it's wearing a wig, let them know that they don't need to use all of their fiberfill. 😊)

Store lambs in plastic bags to keep clean.



## MODIFICATIONS

### To simplify project:

- Ask an older student or parent helpers to work with small groups of students.
- Slice a wedge off the bottom of the 2" foam ball body and don't make legs. The lambs can be lying down.

### To expand project:

- Have students assemble the foam balls with tacky glue, create the legs and attach them. (Use a rubber band to hold the tacky-glued legs together until they dry.)
- Have students design their lambs to be in different positions with heads turned different ways.

### For multiple ages:

- Younger and older students can work side-by-side, with the older students connecting bodies and heads, and making the legs with tacky glue, for the younger students.
- Older students can research more information on lambs, such as shearing the fleece or wool, etc.

## ADDITIONAL IDEAS

- Use lambs as story starters or for retelling the story.
- Make a diorama to create an environment for the lamb. (Note: FloraCraft® has foam dioramas with pre-cut parts that only require simple assembly and they are ready to go!)
- Use the Old MacDonald's Farm Lesson Plan to create a barn and a base and set the lambs in a farm environment.
- Create a learning center/station for students to play.
- Use the same technique and three stacked foam balls to make a snowman ornament as a parent gift.
- Use the same foam balls to make other animals, painting them instead of covering them in fiberfill.
- To create a "Baa, Baa Black Sheep", in a well-ventilated, newspaper-covered area, lightly spray paint a lamb black and let it thoroughly dry to remove the odor.



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## TIPS

- Be sure that you're holding the body/head in the right position when attaching the leg unit. If the body ball is rotated so that the head is too far to the right, the lamb will tip over. If the body ball is rotated so that the head is centered, it will look strange. You want the lamb to look as though it is standing sideways, with its head raised, and has turned to look at you. Figure out the right placement on your model before gluing all the students' lambs. Then make sure each one stands up properly.
- If legs are too tippy, cut or punch out a 2" circle of green cardstock and glue the legs onto it.
- Have a couple of extra heads (with eyes and nose) ready to go in case a student really goofs on their features. With the student's approval that you will quietly "fix" it, move away from them and twist off the student's head, re-gluing a new one. (Abracadabra!)
- If markers are difficult for students to control, press small black beads (size e or seed size) into the foam.

## REFERENCES

*Mary Had A Little Lamb* by Iza Trapani  
*My First Nursery Rhymes* by Kim Mitzo Thompson and Karen Mitzo Hilderbrand  
*The Little Lamb* by Phoebe Dunn  
*Life On A Sheep Farm* by Judy Wolfman

# PATTERN

9 SETS of EARS & TAILS

Print at 100%



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