

God Keeps Us Safe

Bible Verse

God keeps us safe (adapted from Psalm 4:8).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- realize that God kept Noah safe,
 - explore the good uses God designed for water, and
 - understand that God gives us what we need to be safe.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

- God keeps us safe and provides for us.

**Genesis
6:9–9:17**



Noah's decision to follow God when his friends and neighbors had rejected God took courage. Think, too, of the courage it must have taken to spend the many years (possibly 120) he spent building the ark while friends and neighbors may have looked on in disbelief and ridicule. Noah's courage and perseverance were again seen as he entered the ark with his family while storm clouds loomed.

At the time, Noah had no idea how long they would be in the ark or whether it would hold together and float. But Noah was confident. Why? Noah's confidence was based on his awareness of God's provision for their needs. The ark did not have navigational instruments, such as a rudder or sails. God would be the captain, directing its path through the dark, turbulent waters. Furthermore, it was God who sealed the door after they entered (Genesis 7:16), thereby showing that he was present to protect.

Walking with the Lord in this world doesn't mean we won't encounter difficult times. Both children and adults need to develop the sense of God's presence that Noah had, as well as his courageous faith in God's ability to provide and protect.

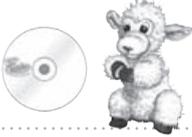
Prayer

- Read Matthew 6:7-8.
- Can you think of a time when God provided for your needs before you even realized you had a need? How does it make you feel to know that God cares for you enough to be "thinking ahead" about your needs?
- How can you worship God today for already tending to needs you don't even know about yet?
- Pray: Lord, I worship and thank you that you care enough to tend to my needs even before I ask. Help the children I teach to learn to have a quiet confidence in your goodness. Meet their every need, I pray.

Before the Lesson

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Arrival Activities Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Welcome Time —Receive a warm welcome from the teacher and Cuddles the Lamb.	Name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player	
	Option 1: Boat Building-Blocks —Build a boat with blocks.	Masking tape, building blocks	
	Option 2: Wonderful Water —Explore different uses for water.	Plastic tablecloth, dishpan, sponges, towels, plastic spoons and bowls, measuring cups, water	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they help clean up the room.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Bible Song —Sing a song about the Bible.	Bible, CD player	
	God Keeps Us Safe —Interact with sensory items on the StoryBoard as they hear the story of Noah and the ark from Genesis 6:9–9:17.	Animal crackers, chow mein noodles	
	Storm Story —Learn a fun action rhyme to remind them of the Bible story.		
	The Rainbow Song —Sing a colorful song about rainbows.	CD player	
Bible Activities	Interactive Bible Bulletin Board —Review the Bible story with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.	Cloud patterns (pp. 120-121), aluminum foil or tinsel, tape, scissors, small umbrella, glue stick, marker, cotton balls, heavy-stock paper	
	Sing It Out —Sing a song about how God keeps them safe.	CD player	
	Bible Craft —Make fun “umbrellas” to remind them that God keeps them safe.	Umbrella-top pattern (p. 121); drinking straws; scissors; tape; red, blue, yellow, and green construction paper; crayons	
	Bible Game —Play a game with colorful raindrops and pretend umbrellas.	Scissors, umbrellas and construction paper scraps from Bible Craft	
Closing 	Safe in God’s Heart —Say a prayer, and have a snack.	Heart-shaped finger gelatin, napkins	

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Arrival Activities

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player



- Play “God Keeps Us Safe” (adapted from Psalm 4:8) (track 9) from the CD as children are arriving.
- Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child’s clothing.
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► God keeps us safe.**
- Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won’t be distracted by him during the next activity.

Option 1: Boat Building-Blocks

SUPPLIES: masking tape, building blocks

Before class, use masking tape to make a simple outline of a boat on the floor.

Provide building blocks, and as children arrive, invite them to “build a boat” by laying blocks along the tape outline. Join in the boat-building project, and encourage children to ask for blocks as they need them. Make comments such as “I like the way you ask for the blocks you need” and “It’s good when we have what we need.” Tell children that today they’ll learn how God gave Noah and his family and the animals what they needed on the ark. Remind children that ► God keeps us safe and that God gives us what we need to be safe.

Option 2: Wonderful Water

SUPPLIES: plastic tablecloth, dishpan, sponges, towels, plastic spoons and bowls, measuring cups, water

Before class, spread a plastic tablecloth on the floor. Set one or two dishpans partially filled with water on the tablecloth. Provide measuring cups, sponges, and plastic spoons and bowls. Have towels nearby to dry the children’s hands and to mop up any spills.

As children arrive, invite them to explore the ways water can be used, such as washing dishes and hands, making things grow, or causing things to float. Encourage children to “make it rain” by scooping water into a cup and then letting it trickle into the dishpan. Ask children questions such as “Who gives us water?” and “What’s your favorite thing to do with water?” Remind children that God washed the world clean and fresh and that God kept Noah safe during the flood. Remind children that ► God keeps us safe, too.



BIBLE POINT



It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.



BIBLE POINT



BIBLE POINT



Always be sure to have plenty of adult supervision when using water around toddlers. Never leave toddlers unattended near water.

■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing “Let’s Pick Up All Our Things” (track 2). Use the *CD* and sing the song to the tune of “Looby Loo.”



Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things
And put them all away.

Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Let’s put it all away.

Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
It’s time to stop our play.

Bible Story Time

■ Bible Song

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



Say: **Who keeps us safe? ► God keeps us safe. How do we know? The Bible tells us.** Show children the Bible. **The Bible is God’s special book. The Bible tells us about God. Let’s sing a song about the Bible.** Using the *CD*, lead the children in singing “God’s Special Book” (track 3) to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”



This is God’s special book.
Yes, it’s God’s book you see!
I learn about all God has done
And his love for me!

(Repeat.)

Bible!



■ Bible Story: God Keeps Us Safe

SUPPLIES: animal crackers, chow mein noodles

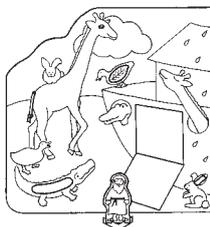


Before class begins, please check to make sure the sensory items are still securely attached so the children can touch them without the danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

Make sure the removable cloud/rainbow piece is inserted showing the cloud side.



Panel 1



Gather the children in front of the StoryBoard, and set a box of animal crackers behind you. Fold back the StoryBoard so that children see only Panel 1. Say: **We're going to hear more about how ►God keeps us safe. Today we'll learn that God gives us what we need to be safe.** Hold up the figure of Noah. **Noah and his family loved God. Let's give Noah a pat and tell him we love God, too.** Pass the figure of Noah to the

children and encourage each child to say, "[Child's own name] loves God."

Set the figure of Noah in front of the StoryBoard. Say: **Noah and his family loved God, but the rest of the world didn't love him. God was sad because the people acted mean.** Say the following action rhyme, and encourage children to do the actions as you repeat the rhyme once more.

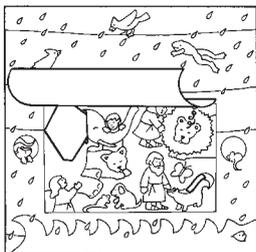
The people acted mean and bad. (*Shake your finger.*)
It made God feel very sad. (*Shake your head sadly.*)

God decided to wash the world clean with a big flood. But God provided a way to keep Noah and his family safe. God told Noah to build a big boat called an ark. Then Noah and his family would be safe during the flood.

Open the door flap on Panel 1. Say: **God wanted to keep the animals safe, too, so he sent the animals to the ark. Let's play an animal game. I'll give each of you an animal cracker. When it's your turn, make the sound that your animal makes and then put it through the door on the ark.** Hand each child an animal cracker. Have children take turns making the appropriate animal sounds and then putting their animal crackers through the door flap on Panel 1. Catch the crackers as they're put through, and set them aside. When everyone has put their animals "on the ark," hand each child a fresh animal cracker to eat.

Place the figure of Noah through the flap door. Say: **When Noah and his family and all the animals were on the ark, God shut the door.** Close the door flap. **Listen! I think I hear rain!**

Panel 2



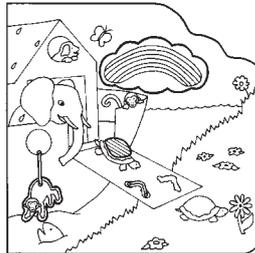
Reveal Panel 2 of the StoryBoard. Say: **God sent a big flood to wash the world clean. It's a good thing God provided Noah and the animals with a boat, isn't it? God kept Noah and everyone on the ark safe. And God made sure that Noah packed enough food for the trip. Let's peek at Noah and the animals.** Have children lift the flap on the ark and peek inside. Encourage children to "pet" the animals. Then say: **Noah gave some of the animals good hay to**



If you have very young children in your class, simply let them touch the StoryBoard pictures and sensory items. Repeat the Bible Point often, and reinforce learning with hugs and smiles.

eat. We'll pretend I'm Noah and you're sheep on the ark. I can take good care of you. Here, little sheep! Walk around the room and encourage the children to crawl behind you. Pat their heads and say: **Good sheep. I'll take care of you.** Then lead children back to the StoryBoard, and say: **I have delicious hay for you to munch.** Hand each child a few chow mein noodles to eat. Then say: **Noah fed the animals and helped keep them safe, just as God kept Noah and his family safe on the ark. God kept every one of the people and animals on the ark safe while it rained and flooded. Let's see if it has finally stopped raining.**

Panel 3



Unfold Panel 3. Say: **Look! The rain has stopped, and the water has dried up. See? The animals are coming out of the ark. We can find the animals.** After each question below, have a few children point to the appropriate animal on Panel 3.

- Ask:
- **Where are the s-l-o-w turtles?**
 - **Where is the happy monkey?**
 - **Where are the crawly caterpillars?**

Say: **God kept the animals safe so they could live in the clean world.** Punch out the white cloud and turn it over so the rainbow shows. **Oh look! What did God put in the sky?** Pause for children to tell you that there's a rainbow in the sky. **God put a beautiful rainbow in the sky. Can you name the colors with me?** Point to each different color as you say it aloud.

God promised never to flood the whole world again. God made the rainbow so we would remember his promise. And God promises to keep us safe and give us what we need. Isn't that wonderful?

Let's learn a fun new rhyme to help us remember today's Bible story!

■ Storm Story

SUPPLIES: none



Remove the sheet of *blue cellophane* from the Learning Lab. Have the children sit on the floor with you in a circle.

Say: **When Noah, his family, and the animals were on the ark, it rained and rained and rained. Lots of water fell on that boat! But God gave Noah just what he needed to stay safe and dry. God kept Noah and his family safe, and God keeps us safe, too! God told Noah how to build a strong boat with a good roof that would keep Noah, his family, and all of the animals safe and dry. God gives our families what we need to be safe, too.**

Ask: • **What do you like to use when it is raining and you have to go outside?** (An umbrella; a raincoat; boots.)

• **How would you feel if it rained for 40 days and 40 nights?** (Bored because I couldn't go outside; sad; scared.)

Say: **Noah knew that God would keep him safe during all that rain. And we don't have to worry, because God said he would never send a big flood to cover the earth again. I'm so glad that God keeps us safe!**

teacher tips

Important: Put the StoryBoard away and out of reach of children.

BIBLE POINT ►

BIBLE POINT ►

Let's learn a fun rhyme to remind us of our Bible story. Here's how it goes. Have children sit in a circle on the floor. Lead them in the following rhyme and actions.

First it rained (*flutter fingers like raindrops*),
And then it poured. (*Flutter fingers more quickly.*)
It rained and it rained (*flutter fingers more quickly*)
And it rained some more! (*Flutter fingers more quickly.*)
But God kept Noah (*point upward*)
Safe and dry. (*Cross arms over chest.*)
He keeps us safe. (*Point to self.*)
Do you know why? (*Place index finger on chin.*)
God loves us! (*Jump up and wave arms in air.*)

After children are familiar with the rhyme and actions, show them the sheet of *blue cellophane*. Demonstrate how to shake the *blue cellophane* to sound like rain. Explain that each time the class repeats the rhyme, one child will go around the circle and shake the blue "rain" above each child's head. After everyone has had a turn, return the *blue cellophane* to the Learning Lab for later use.

Ask: • **Who kept Noah and his family safe during the flood?** (God did!)
 • **Who keeps you and your family safe?** (God does.)



Say: **God kept Noah safe and provided everything he needed. ► *God keeps us safe* and provides what we need, too. Sometimes that might be an umbrella, or maybe a roof over our heads, or maybe a nice mom or dad to hold us tight. The most important thing that God gives us is Jesus. Jesus is our forever friend who will always take care of us. If we love Jesus back, someday we can live with him in heaven. God sent Jesus for us because he loves us so much. We can be happy that ► *God keeps us safe!***



Let's sing a song to show how happy we are that ► *God keeps us safe.*



■ The Rainbow Song

SUPPLIES: CD player



Use the CD and lead children in singing "The Rainbow Song" (track 14) to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.



Did you ever see a rainbow, a rainbow, a rainbow? (*Raise your arms in a circle above your head and sway.*)
Did you ever see a rainbow way up in the sky?
With yellow and orange and purple and blue—
Oh, God made the rainbow for me and for you. (*Make a circle above your head; then point to yourself and then to someone else.*)

Did you ever see a rainbow, a rainbow, a rainbow? (*Raise your arms in a circle above your head and sway.*)

Did you ever see a rainbow way up in the sky?

With red and yellow and orange and green—

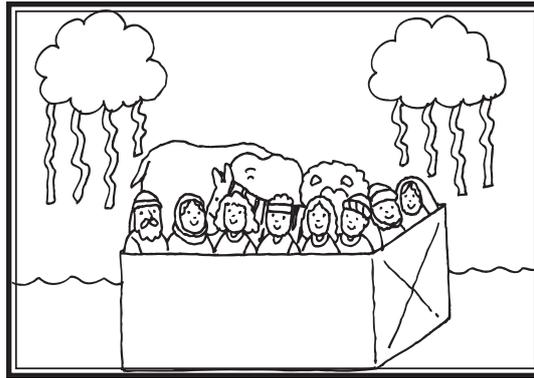
Oh, God made the rainbow for me and for you. (*Make a circle above your head; then point to yourself and then to someone else.*)

Say: **That's a happy song. And I know that Noah was happy that God kept him safe in the ark while the clouds rained and rained. Let's add clouds and rain to our bulletin board.**

Bible Activities

■ Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: cloud patterns (pp. 120-121), aluminum foil or tinsel, tape, scissors, small umbrella, glue stick, marker, cotton balls, heavy-stock paper



Before class, use heavy-stock paper to photocopy the cloud patterns, and cut them out. Make sure that there is a cloud picture for each child. You'll also need several 6x¼-inch strips of aluminum foil or several strands of tinsel for each child. Use a marker to draw large waves on the blue paper under the ark.

Have a small umbrella ready for Cuddles to hold.

Set a glue stick, the cotton balls, and tape nearby. Bring out Cuddles the Lamb holding an umbrella.

Cuddles: Hi! Where are your raincoats? Where are your umbrellas? I heard you talking about lots of rain.

Teacher: Yes, we were talking about rain, Cuddles. God sent lots of rain in our Bible story. But there isn't any rain in our classroom. You don't need an umbrella!

Cuddles: (*Putting down the umbrella*) No rain? Guess I'll put my umbrella down—it was getting heavy anyway. What have you been learning today?

Teacher: We've been learning that ► *God keeps us safe* just like umbrellas keep us safe from the rain. We're going to put rain and clouds in our picture. You can help.

Cuddles: Oh, boy! I like to help!



Have Cuddles hand each child a paper cloud. Help the children glue cotton balls onto their clouds. Then help children tape the clouds to the bulletin board. Each time a cloud is placed, lead children in repeating the Bible Point. Then let children tape foil strips or tinsel to the clouds as “falling rain.”

Teacher: There’s lots of water in our picture isn’t there? Rain is falling from the clouds, and there’s water under the ark. God sent the watery flood to clean the world, but he kept Noah safe. After the big rain, God put a rainbow in the sky and promised he’d never flood the whole world again. Let’s sing about God keeping us safe.

Set Cuddles away out of sight of the children.

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■ Sing It Out

SUPPLIES: CD player



Using the CD, lead children in singing “God Keeps Us Safe” (adapted from Psalm 4:8) (track 9) to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.” For extra fun, do the accompanying motions.



God keeps us safe. (*Cross arms over chest.*)

God keeps us safe. (*Cross arms over chest.*)

Through night and day (*cover eyes with hands; then uncover eyes*),

In every way (*clap twice*),

God keeps us safe. (*Cross arms over chest.*)

(Repeat.)

Say: **The Bible says in Psalm 4:8 that ► God keeps us safe. He protects us the way umbrellas protect us from rain. Let’s make pretty umbrellas to hold.**

◀ BIBLE VERSE

■ Bible Craft

SUPPLIES: umbrella-top pattern (p. 121); drinking straws; tape; red, blue, yellow, and green construction paper; crayons; scissors

Before class, photocopy the umbrella-top pattern onto red, blue, green, and yellow construction paper. Cut out an umbrella top for each child, and save the colored paper scraps for the next activity. Cut small slits in the ends of drinking straws.

Set out the drinking straws, crayons, tape, and the umbrella-top cutouts. Invite each child to choose a cutout. Have kids use crayons to scribble-color their umbrella tops. When the children have finished, help them slide their umbrella tops into the slits on the drinking straws to create “handles” for their “umbrellas.” Securely tape the paper umbrella tops to the drinking straws.




BIBLE POINT ▶

Say: **Hold your umbrellas over your heads.** Pause. **They look so pretty.** ▶ ***God keeps us safe*** the way umbrellas keep us safe from the rain. And God always gives us what we need to stay safe—like umbrellas! We can play a fun game with our umbrellas and pretend raindrops.



To speed up your preparation for the Bible Craft and Bible Game, lay three or four pieces of paper on top of each other and cut out multiple shapes at one time.


BIBLE POINT ▶

■ Bible Game

SUPPLIES: umbrellas and colored construction paper scraps from Bible Craft, scissors

Before class, cut large raindrop shapes out of the colored paper left from the Bible Craft.

Have the children stand in a circle and hold their paper umbrellas. Stand in the center of the circle and say: **I have pretend raindrops. I'll toss some of the raindrops in the air. If you have an umbrella that matches the color of the raindrops, hop to the center of the circle. Then pick up the raindrops and hop back to your place.**

Toss one or more colored raindrops at a time. Continue playing until you've tossed all the raindrops. Collect the raindrops, and play again. For older toddlers, let them name the colors as you toss the raindrops.

When you've finished playing, set the raindrops aside. Say: **God sends water to do lots of things. God gives us water to drink, and to help things grow, and to clean things. God sent the big flood to clean the world. But God kept Noah safe in the ark just as ▶ *God keeps us safe*. And just like umbrellas keep us safe from rain.** Whisper: **Now let's tiptoe with our umbrellas over to the snack table.**

Closing

■ Safe in God's Heart

SUPPLIES: heart-shaped finger gelatin, napkins

Before class, prepare finger gelatin, and use a cookie cutter to cut the gelatin into a heart shape for each child.

After children wash their hands, gather them at the snack table, and have them set their paper umbrellas under their chairs.

Ask: • **Who keeps us safe?** (God.)

Say: **We've been learning that ▶ *God keeps us safe*. And we know that God keeps us safe because he loves us. Let's say the thank-you prayer we've been learning to tell God how thankful and happy we are for his protection.** **Fold your hands.** Repeat the prayer from last week's lesson.


BIBLE POINT ▶


“Thank you, God,”

(Echo) “Thank you, God,”

We want to say,

(Echo) We want to say,

For keeping us safe

(Echo) For keeping us safe

Night and day.

(Echo) Night and day.

In Jesus’ name, amen.

(Echo) In Jesus’ name, amen.

Say: **Let’s enjoy some delicious hearts to remind us of God’s love and how much we love him, too.** Hand each child a napkin with a heart-shaped finger gelatin on it.

When children have finished eating, remind them to throw their napkins in the wastebasket. Have children take their paper umbrellas home.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ **Drip, Drip, Drop**

Repeat the action rhyme children learned in Lesson 7. For extra fun, wave the colored raindrops from the Bible Game.

Have children stand on their tiptoes as you say “drip” and then bend low as you say “drop.”

Drip, drop. Drip, drop, drip, drop, drip—

God sent the ark on quite a trip!

The rain came down *(bend very low),*

And the flood came up. *(Stand and reach up high.)*

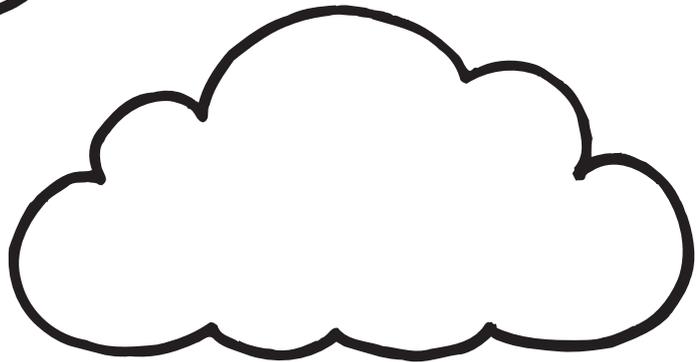
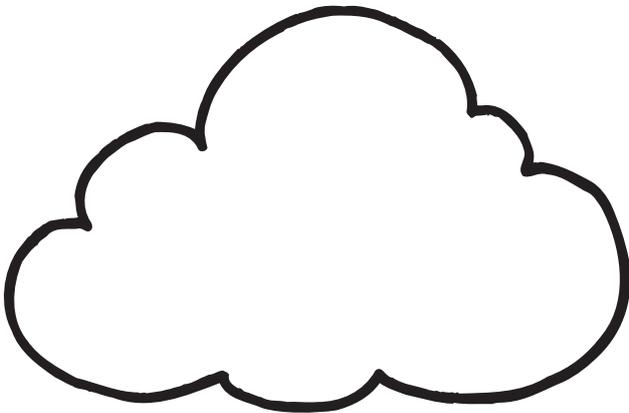
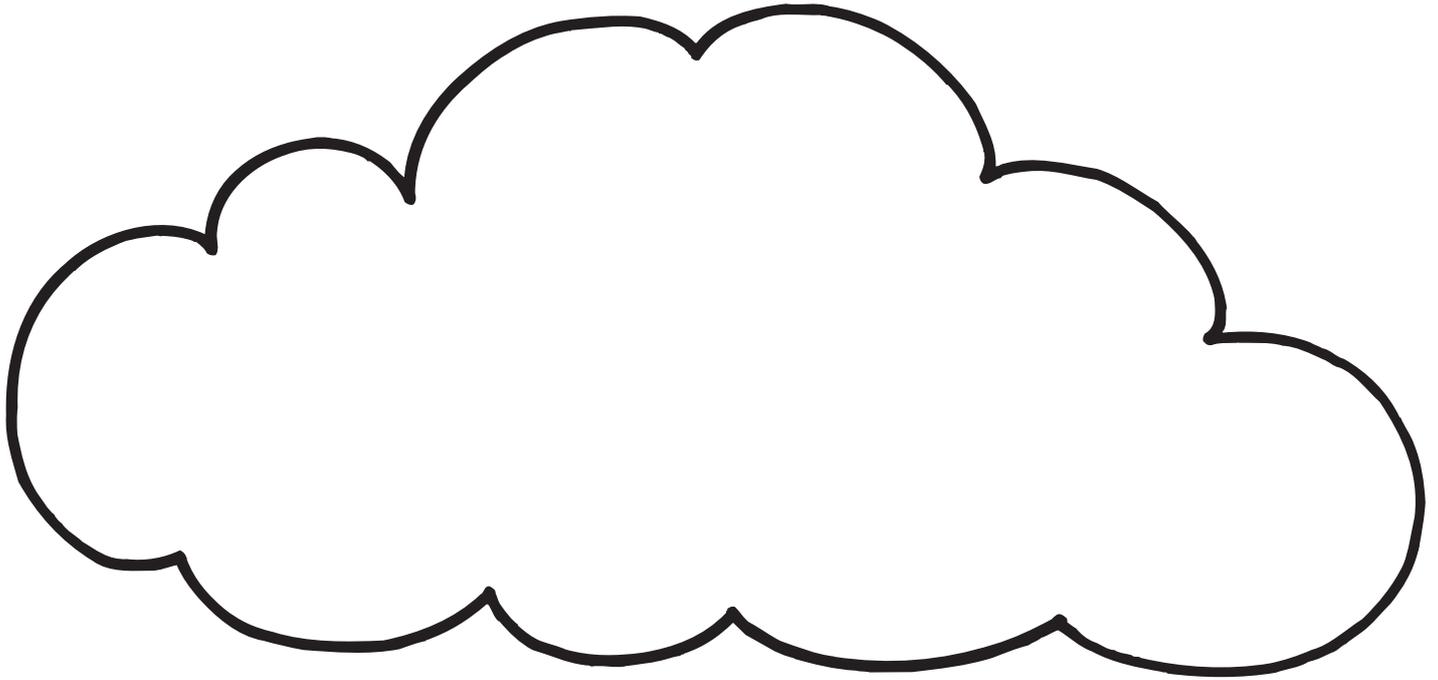
Drip, drop, drip, drop, drip, drop, stop.

■ **Playtime Ark**

Invite children to play in the ark outline on the floor from Option 1. Encourage them to bring stuffed animals into the “ark” or pretend to be animals themselves and crawl aboard for a make-believe sail. If you chose not to do Option 1, turn a table upside down and use it as a pretend ark.

Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.



Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.

