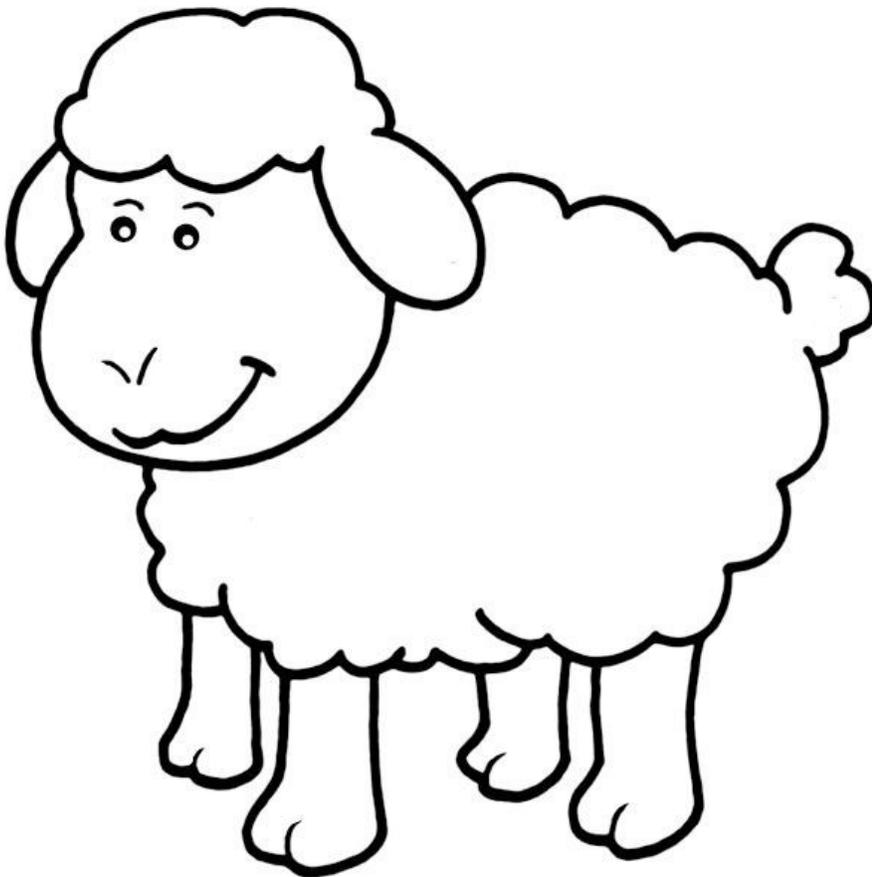


Day Four: Jesus saves me!

Here is how God showed his love among us. He sent his one and only Son into the world. He sent him so we could receive life through him. 1 John 4:9 NIRV

▶ Can you believe we are already in Day 4 in the land of Gospeltopia? We've had so much fun and excitement in our first three days and today will be no exception. Yesterday, we met Timothy Tiger. He was a pretty gentle guy for a tiger. But he was still mighty, powerful and strong, which reminds me of what we learned yesterday... Jesus is strong. There is no limit to what he can do. Because he loves us so much, he uses his strength to help us and save us. That brings us to what we're going to learn today. "Jesus saves me!"



Say hello to Sam Sheep! I know you wouldn't expect to find a sheep here in Gospeltopia hanging out with tigers and elephants... poor Sam Sheep is lost! Sheep wander off easily and need a lot of help.

It's sort of like you and me... sometimes we wander away from God and get lost in our sin. Just like sheep need the help of a shepherd to keep them from getting lost, we need help finding our way back to God. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Jesus saves us. He died on the cross for our sins and rose to life again. He has the power to forgive and to give new life. We just have to ask for his forgiveness and follow him.

The Bible says that we are like little lost sheep, but that Jesus is our Good Shepherd who laid down his life to save us.

Let's say a prayer together and then get on with our adventure through Gospeltopia with Jesus.

Dear God, Teach us what it means to be your sheep, and what it means that Jesus is our Good Shepherd. In Jesus' name, Amen

▶ Bible Story: The Good Shepherd

Jesus loves us and he showed his love for us in one incredibly BIG way. He laid down his life for us. He died on a cross for all of us, so that we could be with him.

Today we're going to read a story that Jesus told people to explain to how much he loved us, and how he was willing to die in order to save us. In this story, Jesus compares us to sheep. Sheep aren't strong; they need someone to take care of them and to protect them. They need a shepherd. Jesus is that shepherd. He is a very Good Shepherd.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father." John 10:11-18

Jesus knows us. Every one of us has done something wrong in our lives – treated others badly, or disobeyed, or acted selfishly. Those wrong things are called sin. Every-one of us has sinned. Sin separates us from God. Jesus knows us. He knows our sin, but he still loves us.

Jesus takes care of us. God sent Jesus to earth to take care of us. To make a way for us to be saved from our sin. Jesus lived the perfect life that we aren't able to live, so that we could have forgiveness and eternal life with God.

Jesus is strong. Even though he could have used his strength to save himself, Jesus chose to die on a cross for us. He suffered the death that we all deserved. Jesus is strong; and in his strength he rose again to new life on the third day. Because Jesus lives, we can have life too. Jesus saves me. All you must do is ask him to save you. Turn to Jesus and say: "Forgive me of my sin. Come into my heart and give me your new life. I will follow you with all that I have."

Jesus wants to be your Good Shepherd. He wants you to be his sheep. He wants to save you and give you a new life with him. Will you follow him?

PRAYER: Dear God, Thank you for dying on the cross for our sins. Thank you for being our Good Shepherd. In Jesus' name, Amen

▶ **Song: Jesus Loves Me**

Na na na na Na na na na na
Na na na na, Jesus loves me

There's a life that's never ending
There's a truth that lights my way
There is mercy that's new every morning
And it will never go away
Oh, that we will always see
The Father's love for you and me

Hey, Jesus loves me
Hey, Jesus loves me, yeah
Hey, Jesus loves me
The greatest thing that there could ever be
Is that Jesus loves me

Na na na na Na na na na na
Na na na na, Jesus loves me

God the Father up in heaven
Holy is His name (holy is Your name)
We will live, live with Him forever
And that's why Jesus came
I wish we could always see
The Father's love for you and me

Hey, Jesus loves me
Hey, Jesus loves me
Hey, Jesus loves me
The greatest thing that there could ever be
Is that Jesus loves me

Na na na na Na na na na na
Na na na na, Jesus loves me

I wish we could always see
The Father's love for you and me

Craft: Sheep sticker scene

One of the story Jesus told people is called "The Parable of the Lost Sheep":

"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent." Luke 15:4-7

Use the stickers provided to recreate the parable of the lost sheep.

Get moving: Dice Game!

Directions for preparing dice:

1. Carefully tear out the next two pages. Cut out the designs including the tabs.
2. Fold the cut out on the edges of each box.
3. Tuck in the tabs and create a box from the folded shapes.
4. Tape the edges of the box together and viola! You have your dice!

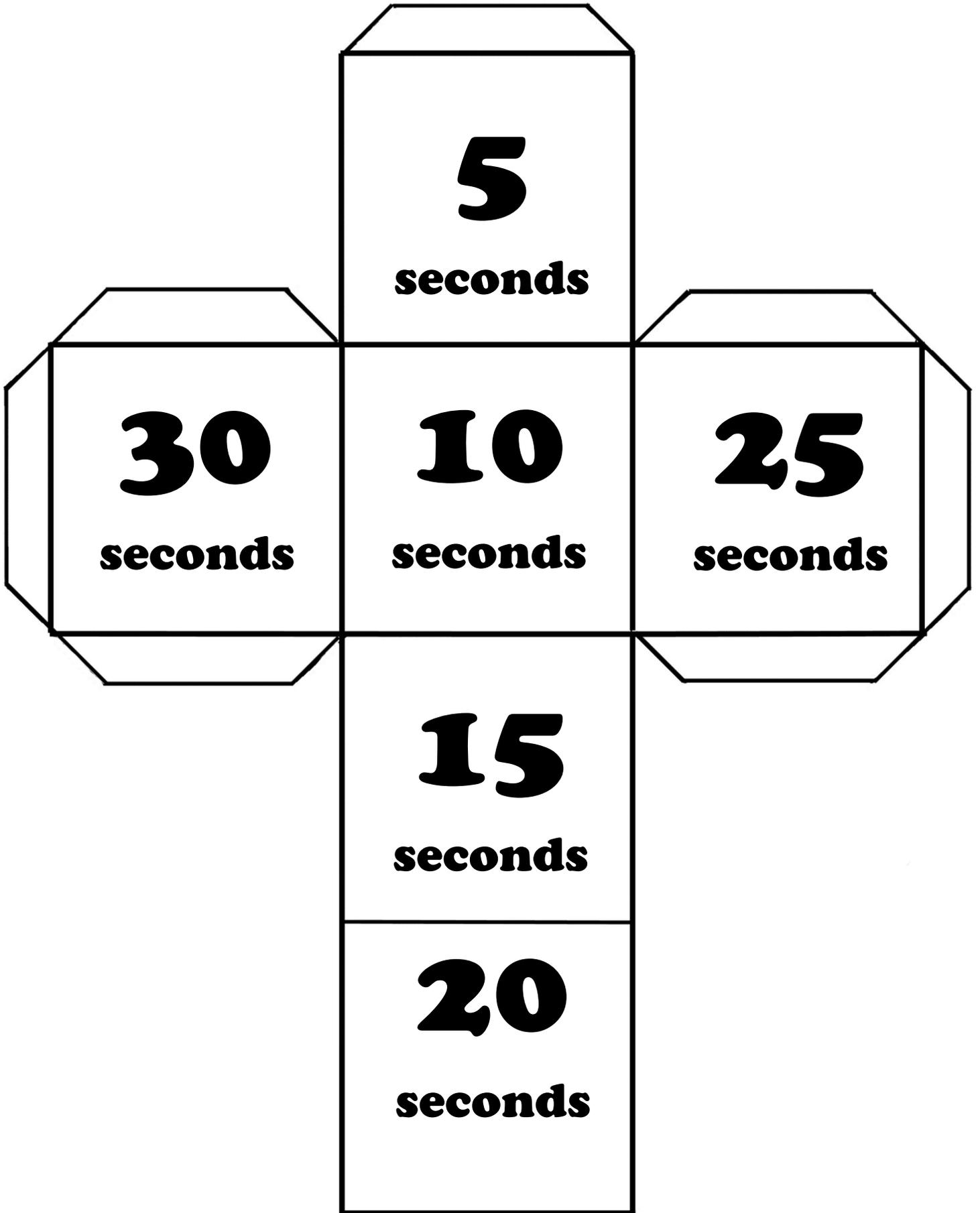
Directions for playing the game:

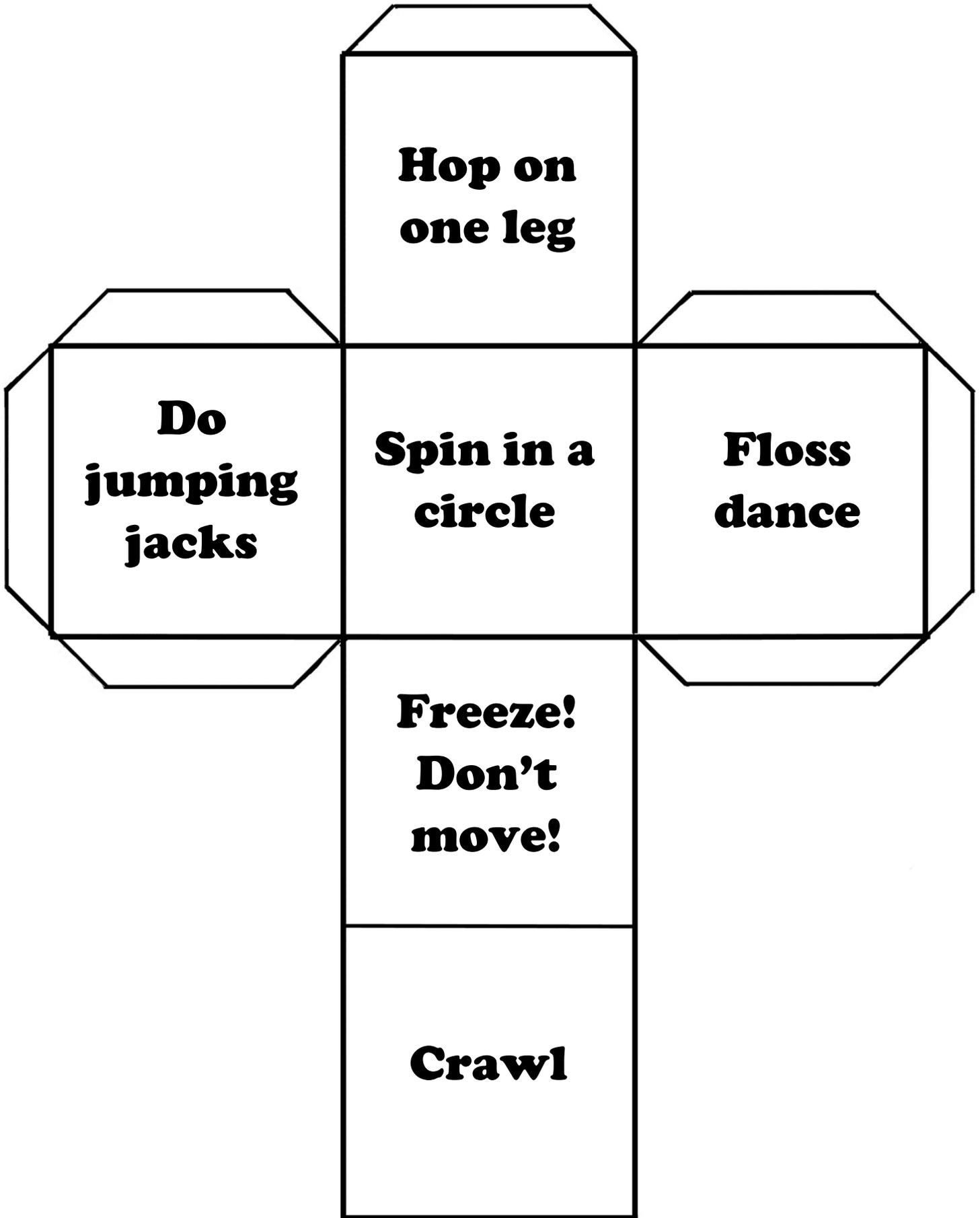
1. Roll the dice
2. Perform the activity that comes up for the time that results on the dice.

Note: If you do not have tape, you can cut out the individual squares for each die, stack them into two piles, and draw a square from each stack for your activity and time.

Snack time: Sheep's wool

In the wintertime, do you like to cuddle up in your favorite sweater? Chances are, that sweater was made from wool and you can thank a sheep for keeping you warm! Sheep's wool is usually a creamy white color, although some breeds of sheep produce natural colors, such as black, brown, silver, and random mixes. Your snack today isn't really sheep's wool... it's actually a yummy bag of popcorn, but we think it kind of looks like sheep's wool... just use your imagination!





**Hop on
one leg**

**Do
jumping
jacks**

**Spin in a
circle**

**Floss
dance**

**Freeze!
Don't
move!**

Crawl