

Lesson Plan for the book THE BEST OF SEWING MACHINE FUN FOR KIDS

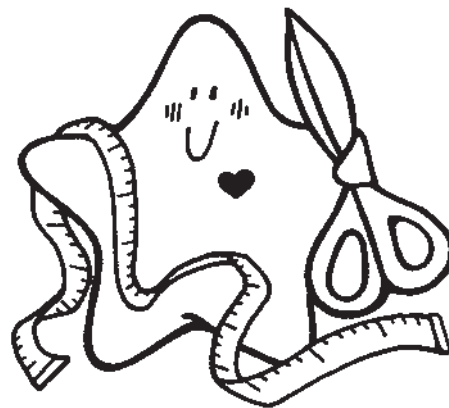
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This is an outline of a class that we teach at our store, Great American Quilt Factory, in Denver, Colorado. We have our beginning kids' classes filled almost before the class schedule comes out, mostly because of the excitement and enthusiasm these kids share with their friends. The class meets four times and covers about one-half of *The Best of Sewing Machine Fun for Kids*. We have found that it is very important not to rush through the classes. Kids enjoy doing some projects and games several times. Each time their skill level improves, and the repetition provides a strong foundation of basics.

Class Title	SEWING MACHINE FUN - STARTING OUT
Structure	Hands-on
Min/Max	4 minimum/6 maximum with one teacher 8-10 maximum with teacher and helper
Length	4 sessions, once a week for 2½ hours OR 4 consecutive days for 2½ hours
Student Supplies	sewing machine in good working order (cleaned and oiled recently) machine manuals, extra bobbin and needles, foot pedal and cord THE BEST OF SEWING MACHINE FUN FOR KIDS book – one per student (copyright permits copying games and stitching exercises for individual use only)

All the following supplies should be in a sewing box or basket and should be labeled with child's name:

fabric scissors and paper scissors
pinking scissors if available
pencils
pincushion and pins
thread in several colors
seam ripper
ruler
roll of freezer paper
small empty detergent bottle
soft 3-ring binder
6-10 clear vinyl pockets
fabric for Soft Shape Heart and Bunny
batting for Heart and Bunny



Teacher Supplies	copies of all stitching exercises on pages 8, 9, 10, 22, 23, 24, and 25 (2-3 per student) lined notebook paper, typing paper Brown Paper Shapes: 5" squares of paper towel and brown paper, scraps of wrapping paper Wildcard: 5" x 8" index card, scrap of fabric 6" x 9", clear plastic 6" x 9", thin plastic such as a dry cleaner bag, brown paper such as a grocery bag, sparkles and stickers Create a Card: construction paper, 4" x 5" scraps of fabric
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Overall Objective	The beginning sewing student will learn to control the sewing machine and improve eye-hand and foot coordination by successfully working on enjoyable stitching activities. Children will follow written sewing directions and become familiar with sewing terminology.
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General Content

Each class will be divided into four segments:

- Getting machine ready and stitching warm-ups
- Review
- Hands-on working
- Clean-up and show-and-share



First Class

Before the first class only, a parent needs to help each child set up their machine. After it is set up, parent leaves. The first 15-20 minutes will be materials setup. When everyone is set up and ready to sew, start with a discussion about what they will learn in the class, introductions of teacher(s) and students, and a general discussion of sewing machine safety including iron safety.

Start by reading together pages 5, 6, and 7 and then do the stitching exercises on pages 8, 9, and 10 and the first dot-to-dot on page 22. Let each child work at his/her own pace. If any kids finish early, give them a piece of paper and have them draw a design and stitch their own lines.

Continue with discussion of pages 13, 20, and 21. Practice threading needles and winding bobbins and let them try the stitching exercises on 9 and 10 with thread. Encourage them to hole-punch their stitching exercises, date them, and put them in their binder.

The last 15 minutes of class is for clean-up and show-and-share. It is very important to establish good sewing habits at the beginning, and one of the best ways to do it is to have them clean up their own messes. It is easy to drop threads and fabric clippings if you know that you are not the one who has to pick them up. Once they have to clean up for themselves, you will find they get a little better about tidiness. Have them tape a small bag next to the machine for little scraps and thread. Also, you will appreciate that the job is not left to you. After clean-up each child shares with the class the projects that they worked on. This is the time for lots of encouragement and praise. After all, we all need a self-esteem booster to help our sewing self-confidence.

Homework

Read pages 3-21 and play the games on pages 14 and 17. Have them check their sewing machine manuals to see where the parts on their machines are and what they look like.

Second Class

First 15 minutes – sewing machine set-up without parent's help and stitching exercises. Have them start with the Dot-to-Dot on page 22 as a review. Compare it to the one they did before. If they finish, go on to page 23.

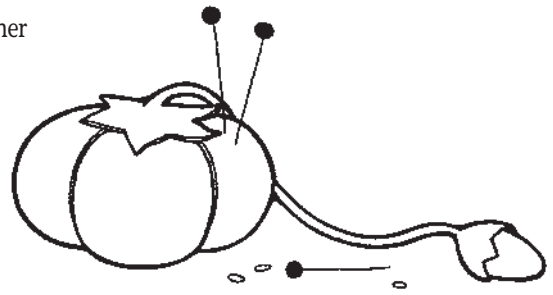
Second 15 minutes – review of what they learned in the first class. Quiz them on machine parts and what they do, machine and bobbin threading, safety, etc. Have them look at each other's machines and find the parts (each child can quiz another on one or two parts). How do machines differ and how are they alike? Remember to have them tape scrap sack in place.

1½ hours for Brown Paper Shapes. Have everyone start with the tree shape. After successfully completing the tree, they can go on to any of the other shapes.

Final 15 minutes – clean-up and show-and-share.

Homework

Read and review Brown Paper Shape directions. Try another Brown Paper Shape, stitching on fun wrapping paper or colored construction paper.



Third class

The first 15 minutes is stitching warm-ups. Redo dot-to-dot on page 22 and compare with the other two. The child should see a lot of improvement. Stitch dot-to-dots on pages 24 and 25. For any who finish early, have them try their hand at making their own dot-to-dot to stitch or have on hand a dot-to-dot coloring book.

15 minute review of safety, machine parts, and sewing techniques — pivoting, sewing around a shape. Have a thread-ing-the-machine race.

1½ hours for Wildcards and Create-a-Card. Have everyone work on the heart Create-a-Card first. Have faster sewers make another Create-a-Card with matching envelope.

Final 15 minutes – clean-up and show-and-share.

Homework

Read and review Wildcard and Create-a-Card directions. Read the rebus on pages 40-41 and make a custom envelope for the card.

Fourth Class

First 15 minutes – stitching warm-up. Give a copy of Patti's Puzzle on page 11 for everyone to do. See how accurate they can be and check to see how they have improved. For those finished early, have them do the Stitch Along exercise on page 16.

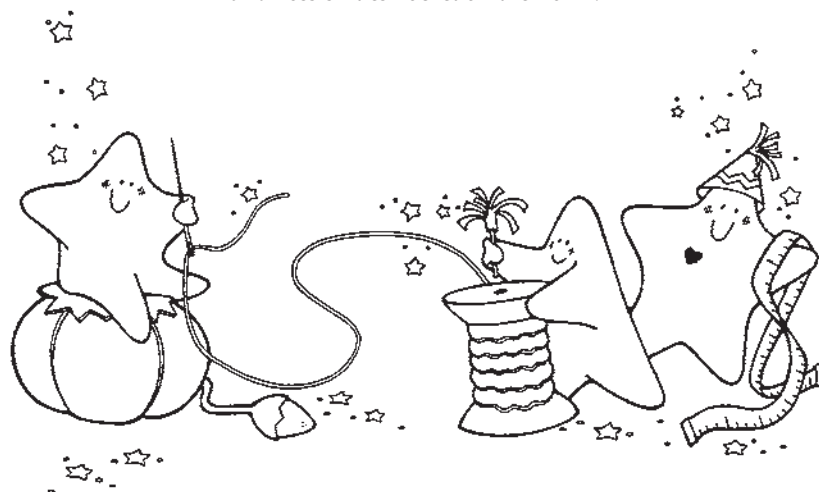
Take 30 minutes to talk about what they have learned so far. Review safety. Talk about broken needles and how important it is to change needles often. Discuss and demonstrate cleaning and oiling the machine. Let each child take their machine apart and clean it, change needle, and oil if necessary. Make sure they realize each machine is different, and they must refer to their manual.

¼ hours for Soft Shapes. Stress the importance of sewing next to the shape. Remind them that they are now sewing on fabric alone, and it will handle a little differently. They will have to plan their pivots and try to make nice round curves. Start them with the heart, and then if they finish they can start the bunny.

Final 15 minutes – clean up, show-and-share.

Congratulations! You have finished the first class!

Students are now ready to do the Button-Up Dog or Cat and Possibilities Pocket on their own.



MORE INFORMATION TO HELP YOU SET UP CLASSES

Class Title Suggestions

Kids' Sewing Bee; Getting Started with Sewing; Summer Sewing Camp; Sewing Fun for Kids; Sewing Machine Skills for Kids; Hey Mom, Can I Sew?; Send Us Your Kid and We'll Send You a Sewer!; Sewing Machine Fun I: Starting Out; Let's Sew, Kids!

Class Description For Newsletter/Class Schedule

Children ages 7 and up will learn to sew using this award-winning, kid-tested, and kid-approved sewing program. Games, puzzles, and projects make learning to sew fun. Children learn sewing machine control in an easy, step-by-step method, gaining control first with paper and then moving on to fabric.

Hints for Classes

Children work at different paces. You might want to break your classes into age groups: 7-9 year-olds, 10-12 year-olds, and 13-15 year-olds. Remind classes of all ages that practice makes perfect.

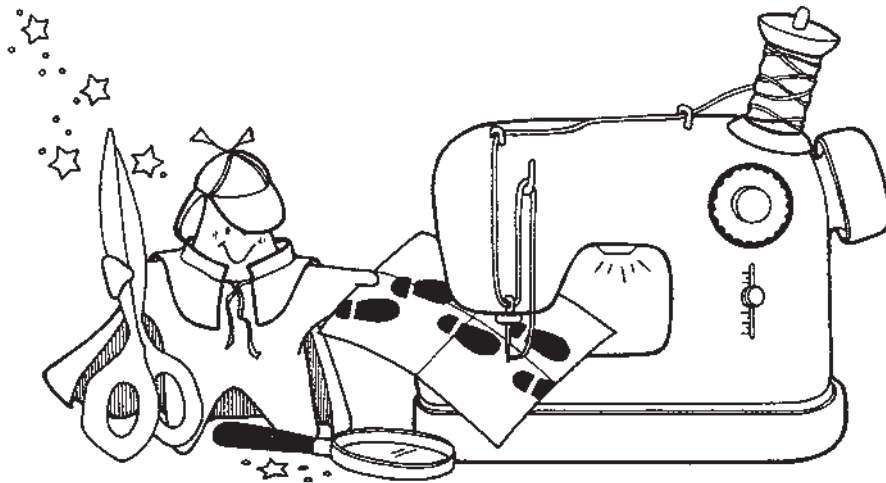
You will have kids in the class who know each other well and some who know no one. Be sure everyone is included in the chatter, and no one feels left out. You might want to have a brief session of introductions and talk about where they go to school and something special they like to do. You could talk about pets as this is a universal topic. Make everyone feel at home, and they will work better for you.

It may be helpful to have a teacher "Helper Star". The "Helper Star" helps with machine breakdowns, broken needles and thread, and gives encouragement to the fastest and the slowest sewers. Kids who have taken the class before also make great "Helper Stars".

Remember to teach how to clean up after sewing.

For best results, kids should learn how to sew on the machine they will be using at home. When we have had more than one child from a family, we rent out one of our machines, usually for a minimal cost like \$2.00.

Now move on to classes for the remaining projects in the book:
Create a Character, Cover-Ups, Bunchies, Bag It, Burger Bites, and Treasure Pouch



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