Ages 2 andup

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Your child will develop fine motor control skills while having fun scribbling and coloring with crayons.

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## Special features of this book

## 1. This book's simple design can help children as young as two learn important basic skills while having fun.

## 2. This book allows parents and children to share meaningful playtime together.

## 3. This book is structured so that your child will develop fine motor control skills while acquiring new vocabulary.

## The aims and purpose of this book

## Develop fine motor skills

Your child will improve finger strength and dexterity. This will help your child hold and use a pencil correctly, which is an important skill for more advanced learning.

Gaining basic pencil control
If your child can manipulate a pencil or crayon at will, or color firmly with a strong writing pressure, then he or she has acquired basic pencil control. İn general, young children usually develop writing skills in the following order:

1. Scribbling.
2. Coloring an area.
3. Coloring an area with strokes going in the same direction.
4. Drawing lines.
5. Writing letters and numbers.

This book aims at developing the first three skills. As children complete the coloring exercises step by step, they will learn to color neatly with crayons and will build a foundation for future writing skills.

## E Nurturing a sense of color

While coloring framed areas or adding more colors to the vibrant pictures, children will experience how different color combinations can create contrast and how the colored areas can join to form various shapes. These fun exercises will enhance your child's sense of color and shape-recognition skills.

## How to use this book

1. To make the exercises easier for your child, please cut out the illustrated portion of each page for him or her. Please also allow your child to use the backs of the pages to scribble or draw on as he or she pleases.
2. This book is designed for use with eight basic crayon colors, but if you do not have the same colors, you can use similar colors or any colors of your choice. If your child's grip is not firm enough, he or she can use
water-based markers instead of crayons.
3. When your child has completed each page, please offer him or her lots of praise.
4. Please refer to the "To parents" notes in this book, which provide more comments and advice on how to help your child enjoy and learn from this book.
5. Try to limit the number of pages your child will complete in a day. It is best to end the day's work when your child still wants to do more.
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## How to use this book (1)

 Relax and enjoy!Kumon's First Steps Workbooks are designed so that children and parents can learn and have fun together. Children learn best from active and participatory parents, so please help your child with the activities in this book. By helping your child, you are encouraging him or her to develop a desire to learn, as well as laying the foundation for your child to become a self-motivated learner.

## How to choose the right color crayon

The exercises in this book require eight colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, violet (purple), brown, and black. However, your child can use any color crayon that he or she prefers. First and foremost, please help your child experience the fun of coloring. Eventually, your child will be able to choose the correct color.

It is okay for your child to hold the crayon in his or her fist at first, but you should gradually teach your child to hold the crayon correctly.

$\Delta$ At first, it is okay to grip the crayon in a fist.

The best way to hold a crayon is to grip the bottom half so that it will not break. In the beginning, do not worry too much about breaking the crayon or teaching your child to hold the crayon properly. Observe your child's progress, and encourage him or her to move forward one step at a time.


## How to use this book

## How to color

Your child will probably find it difficult to completely color a designated area at first. Young children with a weak grip will find it hard to control a crayon, especially if they have never used a writing tool before.
At first your child will start with simple scribbling exercises. Then your child will practice coloring in a white area. Because each white area is surrounded by color, it will not look too messy if the coloring runs over the edges. It does not matter if your child cannot color the white area neatly-he or she can scribble over the area instead. As your child gets used to drawing with crayons, he or she will naturally learn to draw more firmly and color more neatly.

Have your child scribble to his or her heart's content so that he or she can experience the fun of using a crayon and adding new colors. It may be a good idea to line your table with scrap paper so that you can let your child scribble freely without worrying about getting any marks on the table.

$\Delta$ An example of scribbling.

Children will gradually learn to color neatly. Do not be concerned about keeping your child's coloring within the edges at first. It also does not matter if your child cannot thoroughly color the designated area. Give your child ample time to become aware of the edges of the coloring area, and to start trying to color it neatly and thoroughly.


A An early stage of coloring.

Here is a tip you can give your child: Try coloring from the inside edges of the white space and then slowly move towards the middle.


A An example of a child that is getting more confident with coloring.

## 1 Breakfast Time!

## To parents

Your child will practice scribbling first. Even if he or she is using a crayon other than red, allow him or her to proceed. Praise your child when he or she has completed the exercise. Then, say "omelet" aloud while pointing to the word.


## Draw some ketchup on the omelet.

omelet


## 2

To parents
It may be a good idea to show your child the actual objects represented by the illustrations in this book. The next time you eat spaghetti, mention the drawing that your child made here.

## Draw the spaghetti.

## spaghetti



## 3 I Need Some Hair!

## To parents

When your child has finished coloring, say "hair" aloud while pointing to the word.

## 4 Water Fun

## To parents

Encourage your child to scribble from the tip of the hose. When he or she is finished, offer lots of praise and talk about playing in the water during the hot summer.

Draw lots of water.

## water



## - It Looks Like Rain

## To parents

Say something like, "Here comes the rain," or "Look, the snails have little umbrellas," while your child is drawing the rain.


## Draw lots of raindrops.

## 6 <br> Holiday Party

## To parents

From this page, your child will practice short strokes. If it is too hard for your child to draw short lines, he or she can draw the same strokes as on the previous pages. When your child has finished coloring, offer praise and talk about holiday parties.

## Draw lots of confetti.



## party popper



## 7 Yummy!

To parents
Encourage your child to draw using different colors if he or she seems to be able to do so. Do not be concerned about running off the edges.


## Draw lots of candy sprinkles on the ice cream.

## 8 <br> A Berry Good Time

## To parents

The black spots on the surface of strawberries are not seeds. These spots are actually little fruits with even smaller seeds inside! When your child has finished drawing the dots, say "strawberry" aloud while pointing to the word.

Draw black dots on the strawberry.

## strawberry

## - Sweet Tomato



## To parents

From this page on, your child will practice filling in a white area. The color of the sample crayon is just a reference. If you do not have the same color, it is okay to use a similar color or any color your child likes. When your child has finished coloring, say "tomato" aloud while pointing to the word.

## Color the white area.

## tomato

## 1- Lemony

## To parents

It is okay if your child cannot color the entire white spot neatly. And do not be concerned if he or she colors outside of the lines. When your child is finished, offer praise such as, "What a beautiful lemon," and say "lemon" aloud while pointing to the word.

Color the white area.

## lemon



## Do You Like Green Peppers?

To parents
When your child has finished coloring, offer praise and say "green pepper" aloud while pointing to the words.


Color the white area.

## I2

To parents
Compare this page with your child's previous work. Has your child made some progress? If you notice any change, offer lots of praise, such as, "Look at you! You're getting really good!"

Color the white area.

## 13 Yummy!

## To parents

The white area in this exercise is bigger than ones on the previous pages. Now that your child is getting more confident in his or her coloring ability, he or she will begin to color larger areas.


Color the white area.

## ice cream

## 14 <br> Dessert

## To parents

Do not be concerned if your child colors outside of the lines. When your child has completed the exercise, say something like, "The pudding looks so yummy!"


## Color the white area.



# IT 

## So Refreshing

## To parents

Say something fun like, "We drink orange juice to keep us healthy and strong." When your child is finished, say "orange juice" aloud while pointing to the words.

## Color the white area.

## orange juice

## 16 <br> Steamed Up

## To parents

Do not be concerned about running off the edges. When your child is finished, offer praise and say "pot" aloud while pointing to the word.


## Color the white area.

## 17 <br> Rain, Rain Go Away!

## To parents

The white square is designed to draw your child's attention to the shape of the umbrella. Encourage your child to color along the inside edges of the white square first, and then fill in the middle area.


## Color the white area.

To parents
Talk about watering flowers in the garden while your child is coloring. The next time you go outside, point out all the different colored flowers.

## Color the white area.

## 19 <br> There's a Snail on My Boots!

## To parents

When your child is finished, say something about the illustration, such as, "Look, there's a little snail on the yellow boots!" Please also say "rain boots" aloud while pointing to the words.

Color the white area.

## 2. My Hat

To parents
Show your child how to color inside the edges of the white section first and then move to the middle. If he or she seems to be having difficulty, show him or her what to do.


## Color the white area.

## hat

## 21 Froggy!

## To parents

From this page on, your child will practice coloring a triangular area. Have your child color the inside edges of the white triangle first, and then complete the middle portion.

## Color the white area.

## frog

## 22 <br> Horse Play

## To parents

Do not be concerned about running off the edges. What is most important is for your child to enjoy coloring.

## Color the white area.

## horse

## 23 Song Bird

To parents
When your child is finished, you can say something like, "Look, there is a very cute bird!"


Color the white area.
bird


## 2. Splish Splash in the Bath

To parents
When your child has finished this page, compare it with his or her previous work. If you notice any progress, offer lots of praise, such as, "You're really getting good!"

## Color the white area.



## 20

To parents
Over the next five pages, your child will practice coloring several areas on each page. On this page, there are two blank areas. Encourage your child to color both areas.


Color the white areas.

## Up, Up and Away...

To parents
On this page, your child will use three colors. If he or she seems to be having difficulty, you can help choose the crayons by asking what color each balloon is.

Color the white areas.


## 27

## Fun in the Sun

To parents
Talk with your child about a day at the beach. Do not forget to constantly encourage your child. When he or she has completed this page, say "beach ball" aloud while pointing to the words.

## Color the white areas. <br> beach ball



## 28 Rides!

## To parents

If you have been to an amusement park or fair together, talk about the fun time you had while your child colors the picture.

Color the white areas.

## amusement park



## $2 \cdot$

To parents
There are four blank areas to be colored on this page. Have your child choose which four different colors he or she wants to use. It is okay if the colors your child chooses are different than the colors in the example.

## Color the white areas.



## - Bunches and Bunches

## To parents

From this page on, each exercise will require more careful coloring. On this page, your child will color only one part. When your child has completed the activity, talk about his or her favorite fruit.

Color the grape.


## grapes



## 31 Driving Along

## To parents

Your child will color the top traffic light red. When he or she has completed the page, say "traffic light" aloud while pointing to the words.

Color the traffic light.


## 32 <br> Police Chase

## To parents

Your child will color the light on top of the car blue. When your child is finished, say "police car" aloud while pointing to the words.

Color the light of the police car. police car


## 33

To parents
Your child will color the egg yolk yellow. When he or she has completed the page, say "fried eggs" aloud while pointing to the words.

## Color the fried egg.

## fried eggs



## 34 Yellow Bananas

## To parents

When your child is finished, offer him or her praise, such as "Good job!" and talk about his or her favorite fruit. Say "bananas" aloud while pointing to the word.


Color the banana.
bananas

## 30

To parents
When your child has completed this page, share your impression of the illustration by saying something like, "This lion looks strong!" Say "lion" aloud while pointing to the word.


## Color the lion's mane.

## lion



## 36 <br> Spring is Here

## To parents

From this page on, have your child choose any colors he or she likes. It is also okay to use a single color.
 Encourage your child to color independently until he or she finishes and then talk about flowers together.

## Color the flowers with your favorite colors. flowers

37 Quack
To parents
Do not be concerned if your child is coloring outside of
she uses.

Color the duck with your favorite colors.

## 38 At the Circus

## To parents

If your child seems to be having difficulty deciding which colors to use, please give him or her a hint by asking, "What color do you want to use for his overalls?"

Color the clown with your favorite colors.
clown

## 39 Happy Birthday to You!!!

## To parents

This is the last exercise of the book. When your child is finished, compare this page with his or her previous work. You will see much progress in your child's ability to control the crayon, choose the correct colors, and color evenly. Point to the word "Congratulations!" as you celebrate your child's achievement and praise the effort he or she has made. It may be a good idea to keep this workbook as a record of your child's growth and development.

## Color the cake with your favorite colors.





[^0]:    Cover illustration by Yoko Imoto Cover and interior design by STUDIO.COM Art direction by Toshihiko Karakida

    - Interior illustrations by Yoshiko Murakami Photographs by H. Kamiizumi

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