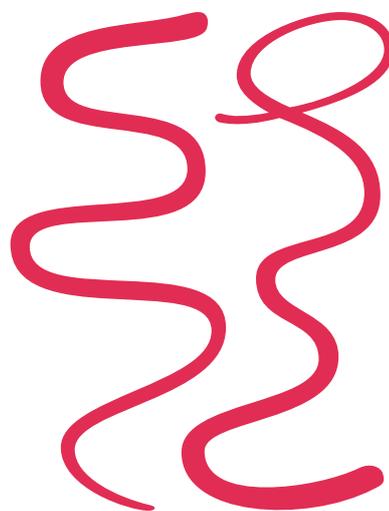
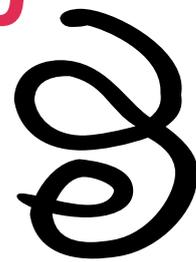


# Handwriting patterns playbook

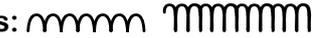


## Patterning: first steps in handwriting

Before children are able to start writing letters and words their hands and muscles need to practise producing patterns of all kinds. Patterning is fun and creative – give your child crayons, pencils and pens and let them enjoy making marks on paper!

By the time they start school most children will be able to copy patterns very accurately, from horizontal and vertical lines to circles and diagonal lines.

This Patterns playbook offers your child the opportunity to practise common writing patterns in preparation for handwriting letters at age 4 or 5. It might also prove useful if your older child has trouble writing particular letters – for example:

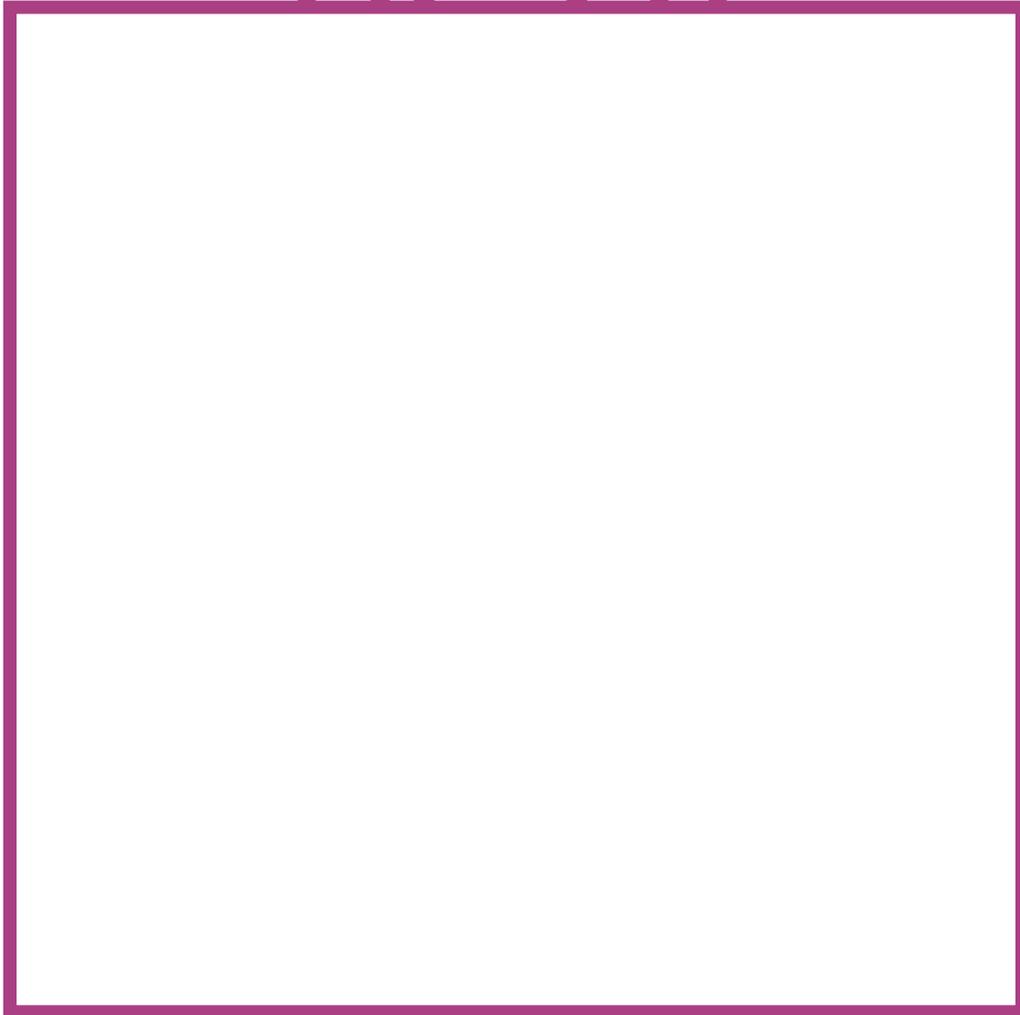
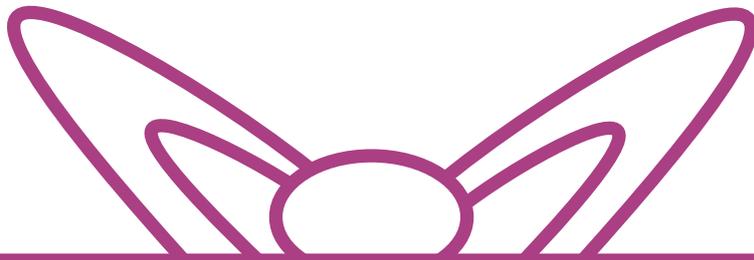
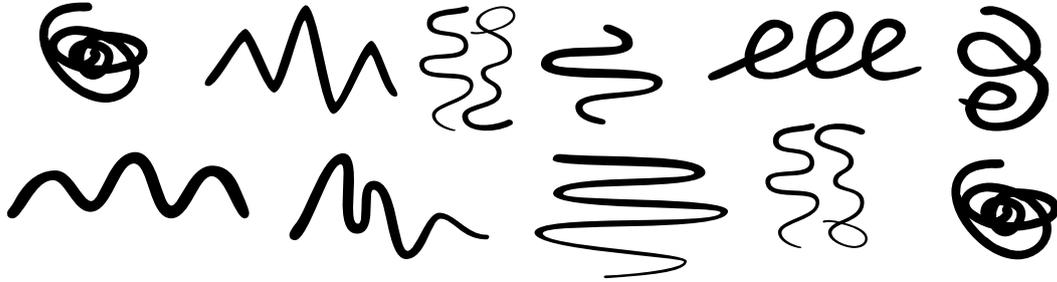
- Children who have trouble writing **b, h, m, n, p, r** should practise push pattern movements: 
- Children who have trouble writing **i, l, t, u, y** sometimes write them from the bottom up, which can prove problematic when they move on to joined-up letters. Practising pull pattern movements can help: 
- Children who find **a, b, d, f, h, i, k, l, m, r, t, u** tricky should practise vertical pattern movements: 
- Children who have trouble with **k, v, w, x, z** should practise diagonal pattern movements: 
- Children who find **a, c, d, g, o, q, s, f, e** tricky should practise 'c' pattern movements: 

Good pens for patterning are fine felt-tipped pens. Ask your child to use the same pen for each row of shapes so they can practise moving their hand smoothly and make flowing movements, but offer them a selection of colours if possible so they can enjoy being creative with their patterns.

For more on how your child learns to write and next steps in handwriting see TheSchoolRun's handwriting resources.

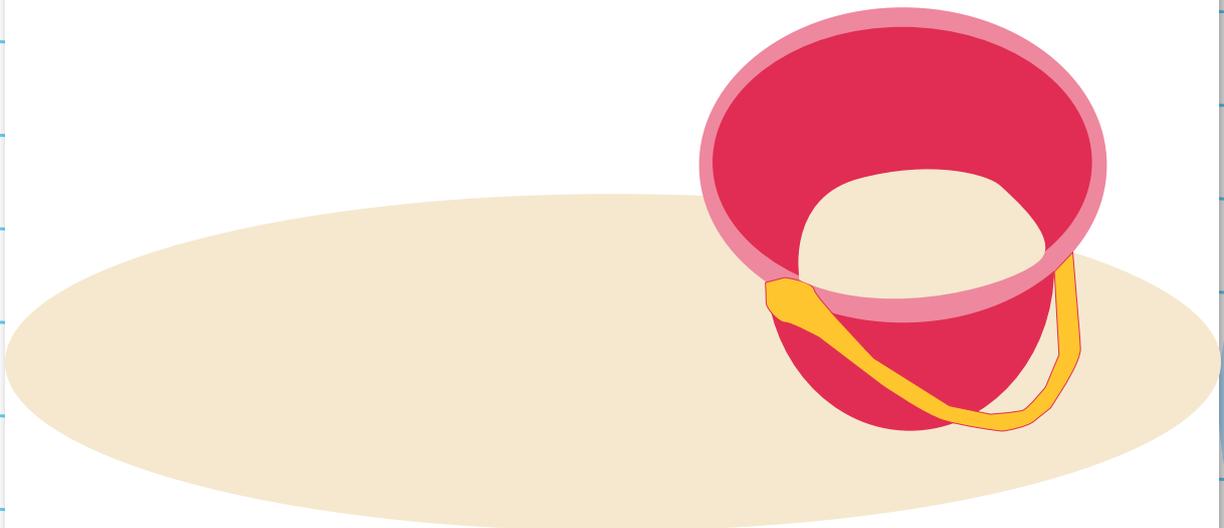
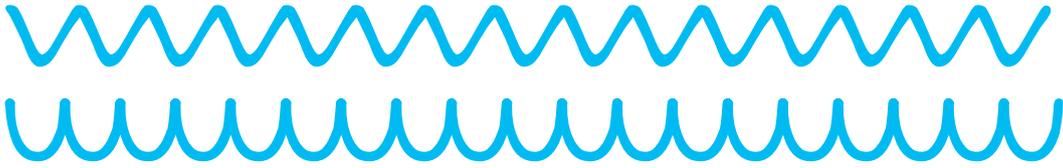
## Get scribbling!

This present is wrapped in very plain paper! Can you use coloured pencils, crayons or pens and draw lots of waves and swirly lines to make it look bright and fun? Do you like these patterns?



## Make some waves

Do you love playing in the water at the seaside? Use a blue (or turquoise!) pencil to draw some waves on this empty beach! Use the patterns below as a guide and see if you can keep all the waves the same size.

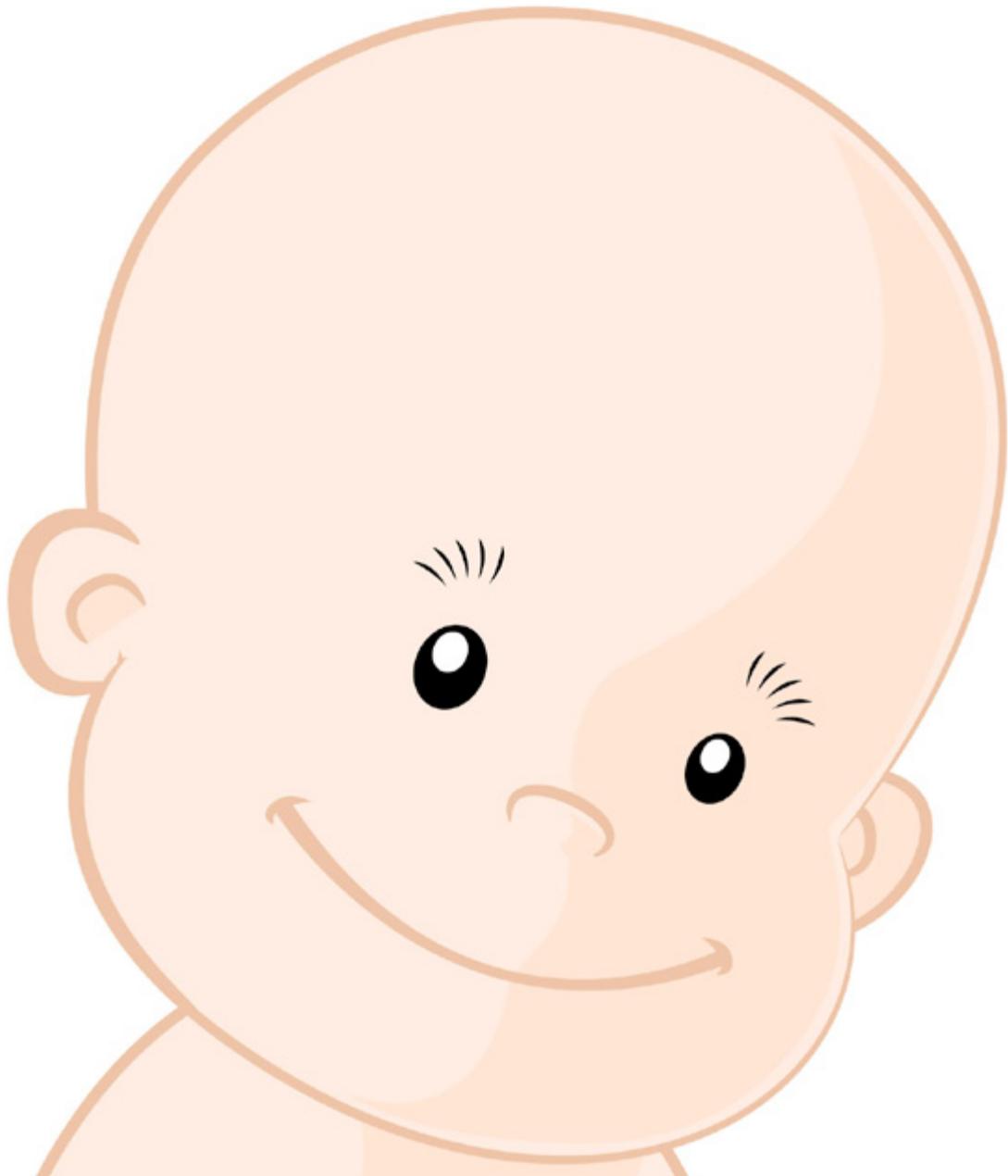
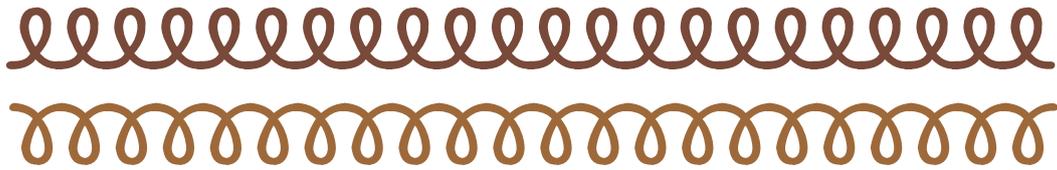


**PARENT TIP!**

Point out the difference between the two patterns and encourage your child to draw them as clearly rounded arches or definite zig zags.

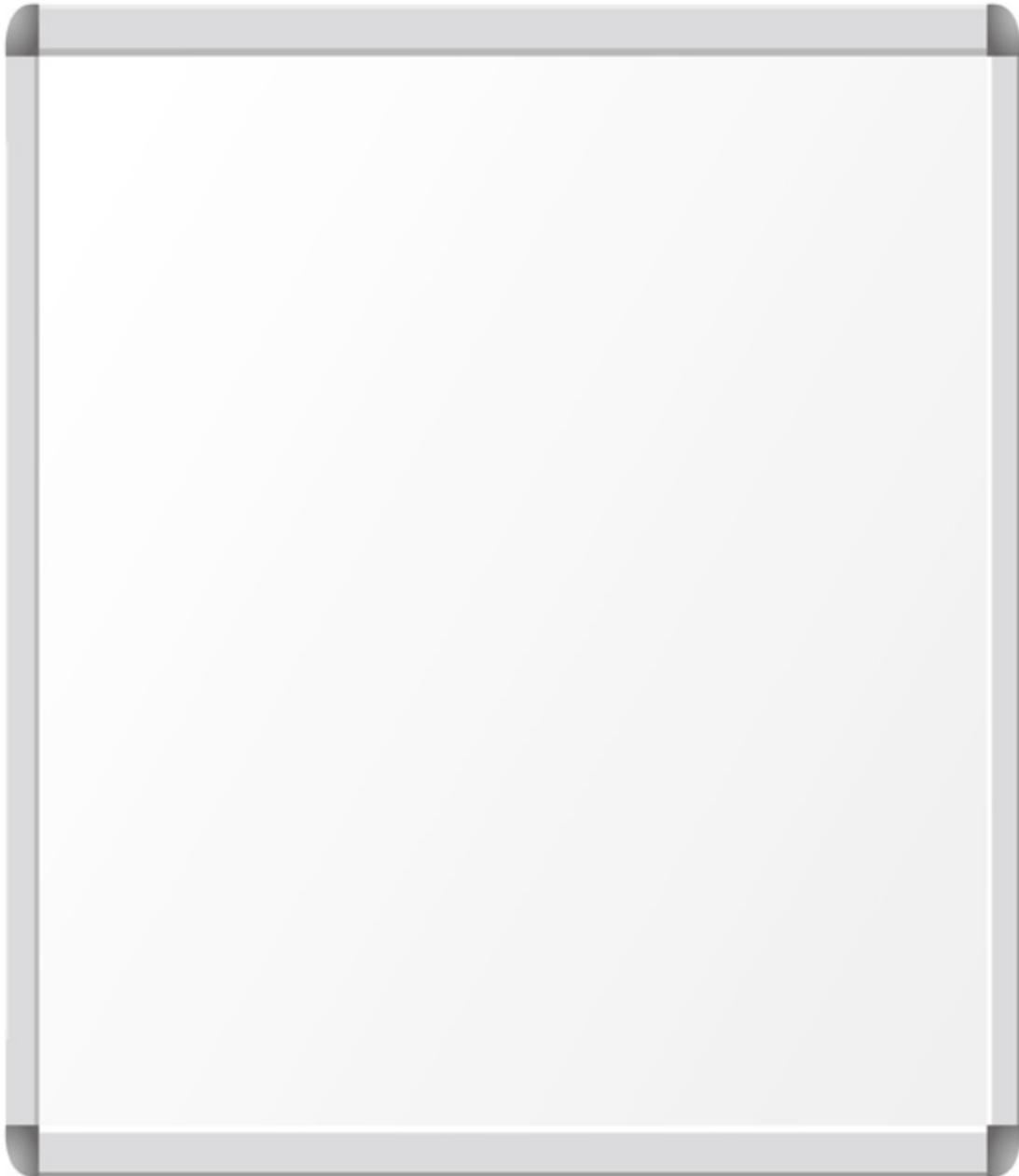
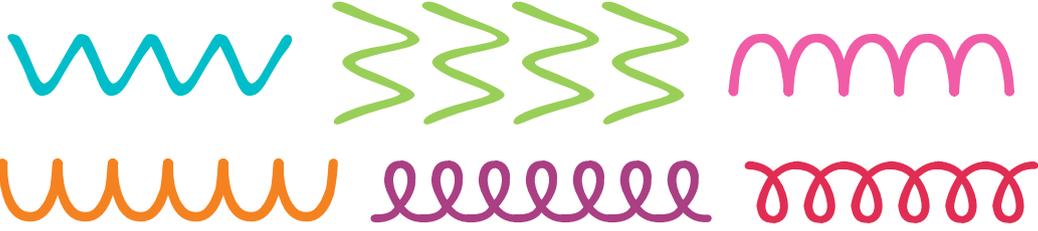
## Draw some curly baby hair

This baby has gorgeous curly brown hair – can you draw it in the picture below? Use these patterns to draw the curls and see if you can draw each curl the same size!



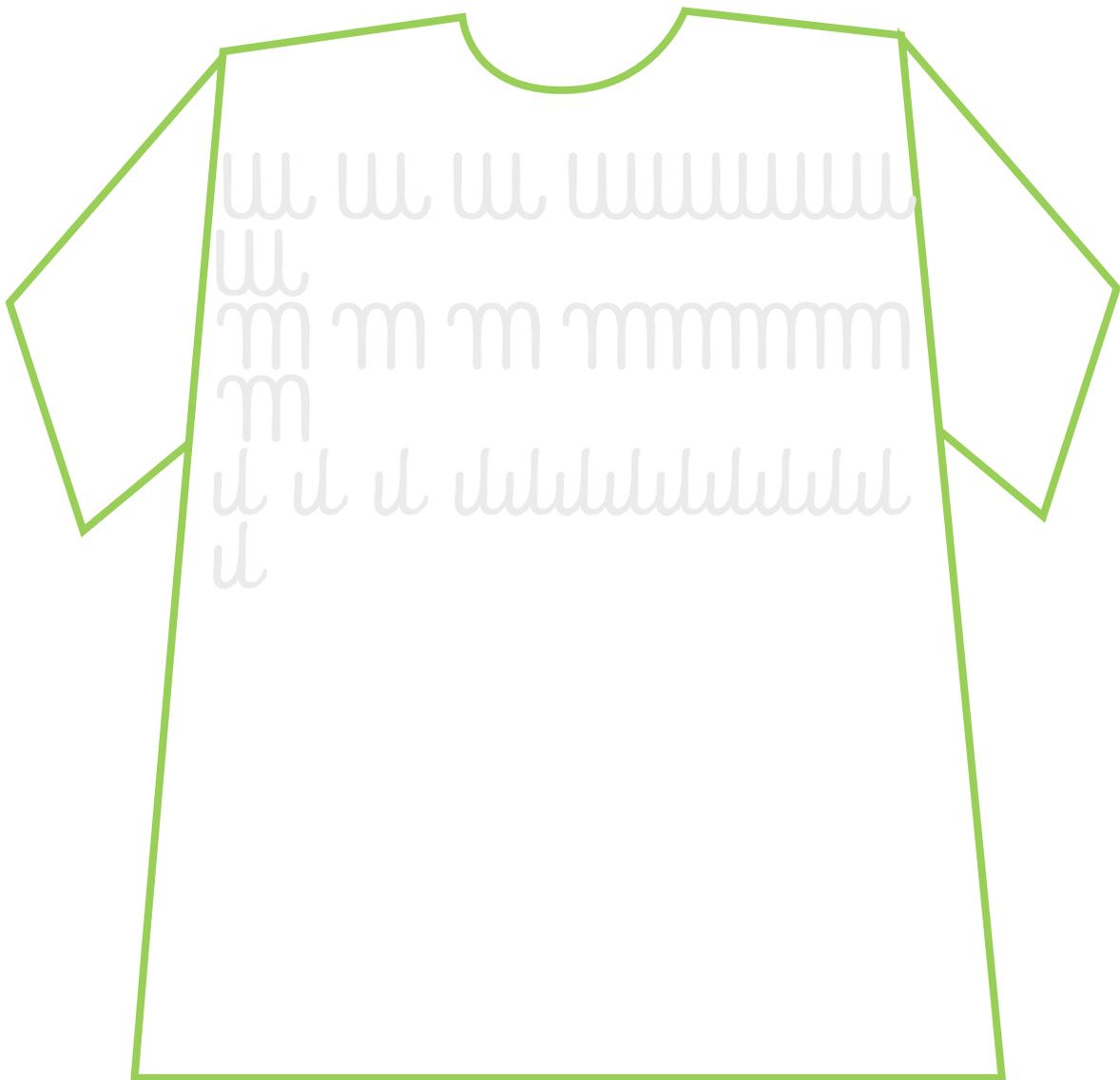
## Prepare some colourful patterns

Can you cover this whiteboard with colour? Repeat all these patterns all over the whiteboard and cover it up!



## Drawing up and down

These patterns help you practise moving your pencil up and down on the paper, just as you do when you're writing letters. Can you decorate the T-shirt with these patterns? Trace them first, then have a go at writing them yourself!



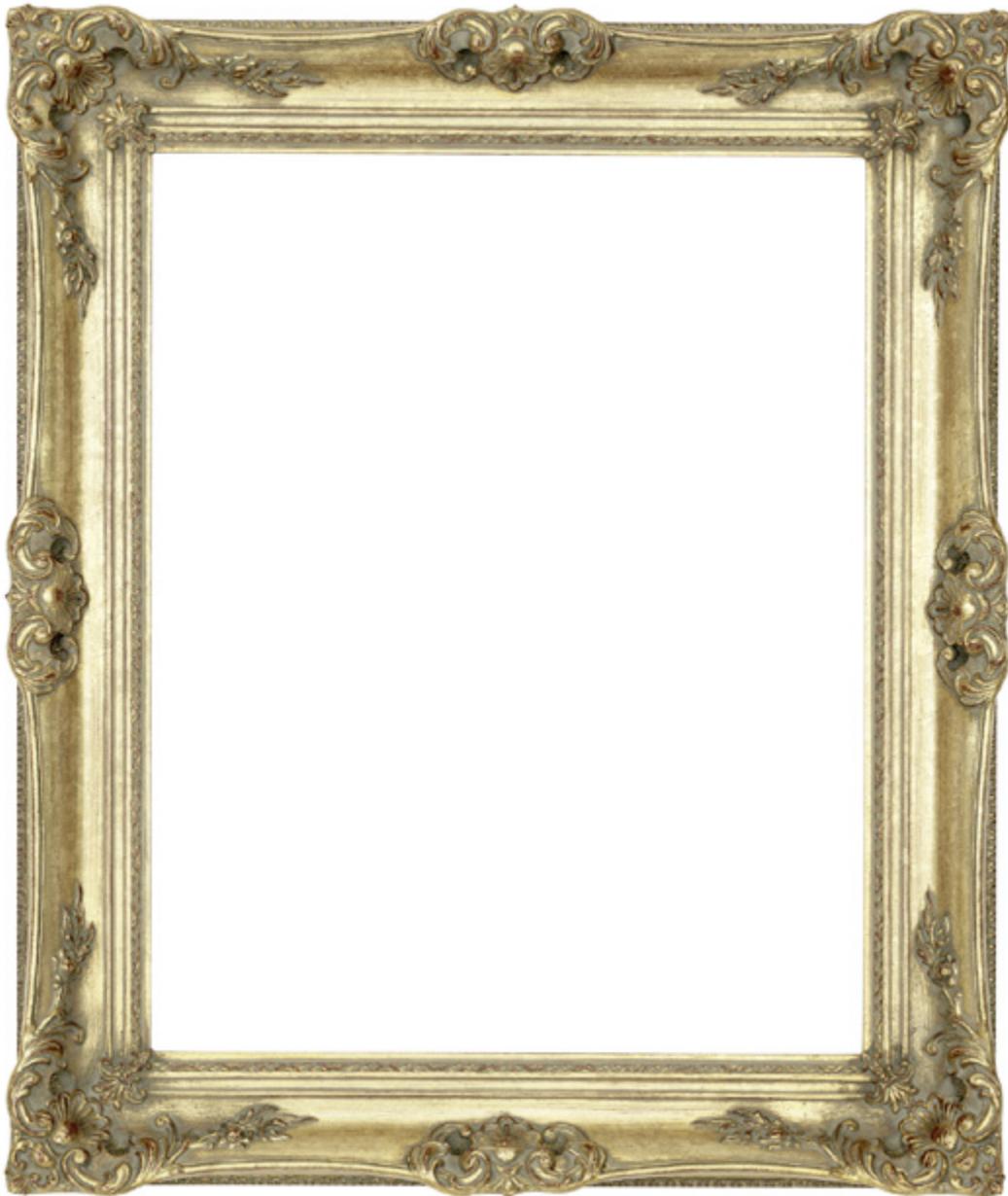
**PARENT TIP!**

These patterns introduce your child to ascending and descending strokes in preparation for writing real letters.

## Design a picture

Can you fill this frame with shapes like these? Repeat all these patterns all over your blank canvas!

VX  
ZZZZ ZZZZ ZZZZ ZZZZ



**PARENT TIP!**

Encourage your child to copy the shapes carefully so they are not 'falling over' – drawing true diagonals isn't easy for children and lots of encouragement always helps!

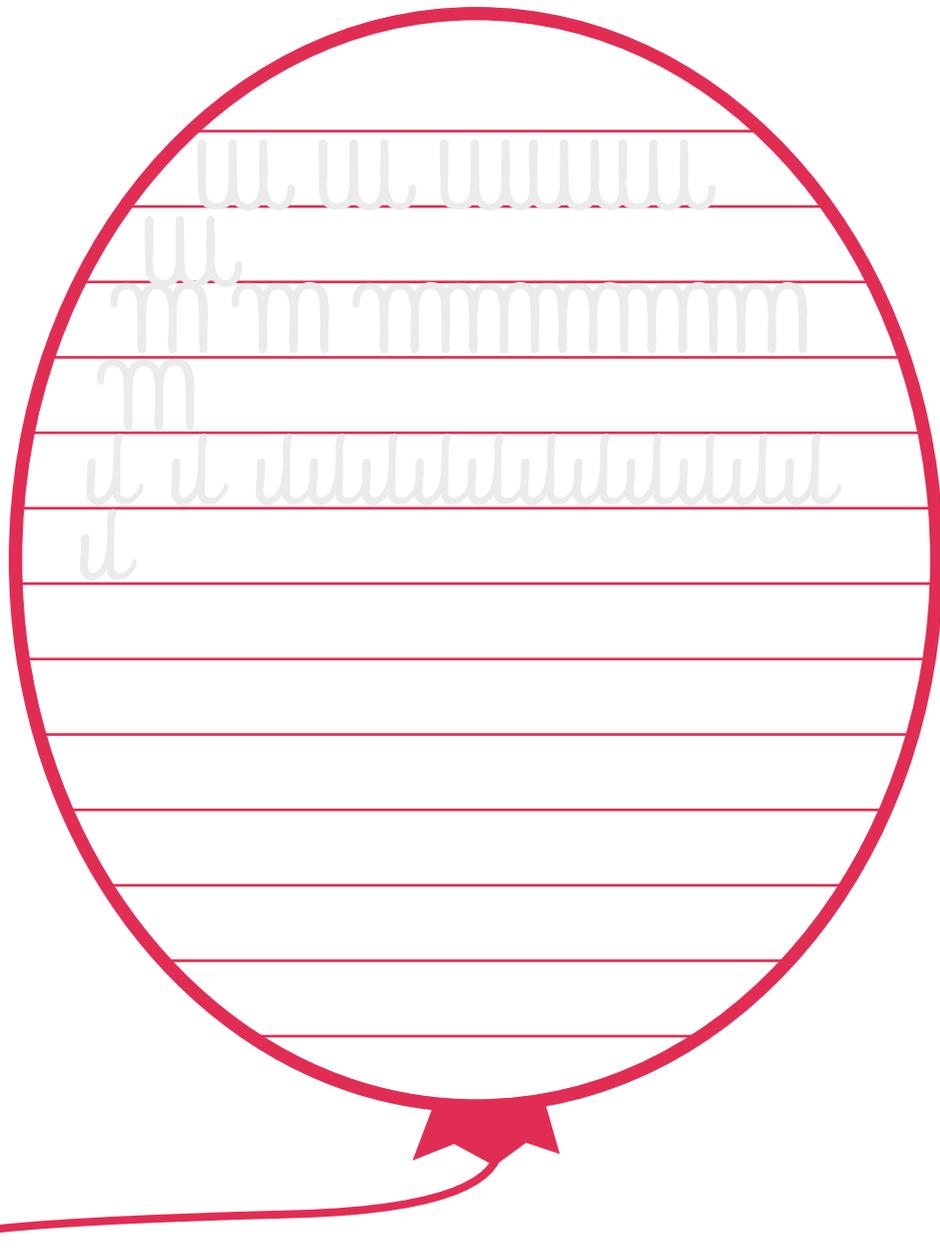
## Make a snake hissss!

This slithery snake is making lots of noise! Can you draw his hissing all over the page with this pattern?



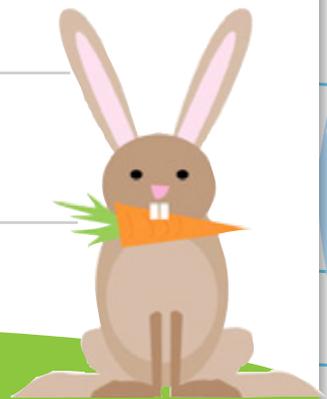
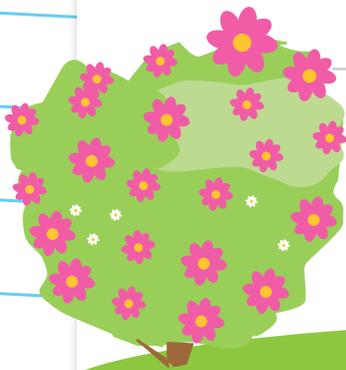
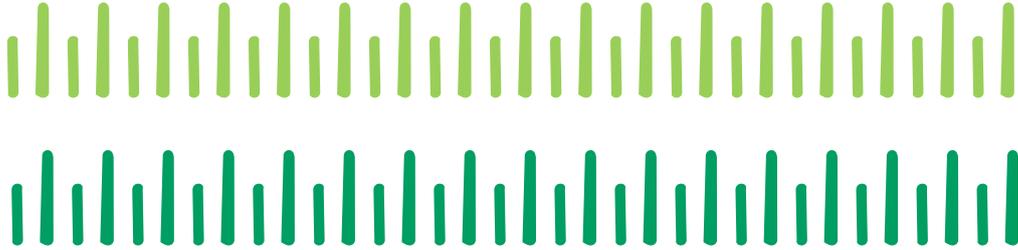
## More drawing up and down

Can you decorate the balloon with these patterns? Remember to keep your patterns on the line! Trace them first, then have a go at writing them yourself.



## Grow some grass

Cover the page in grass patterns like the ones below and give the rabbit lots to nibble on! Try to draw your patterns on the lines if you can, and make each blade of grass even. Grass always grows up (of course!), but can you draw your grass starting from the top and moving down?



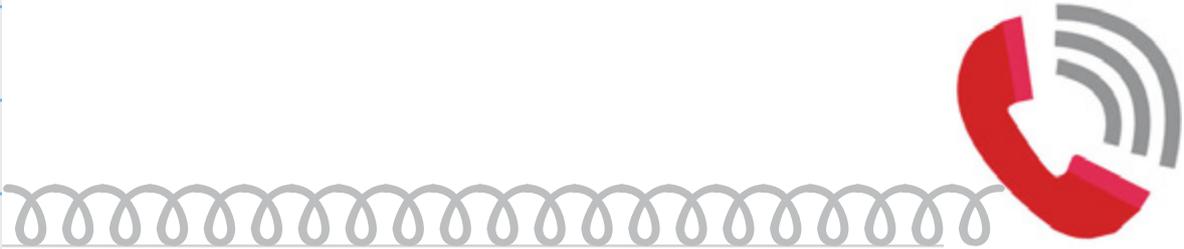
## Draw the deep blue sea

These fish need some wavy water to swim in! Can you add it into the picture using these patterns? Remember to draw your patterns on the lines and make each wave the same size.



## Make the telephones ring

Old-fashioned phones need cords! Can you draw them in using these curly wurly patterns? Try to keep your patterns on the lines if you can, and make each curl the same size.

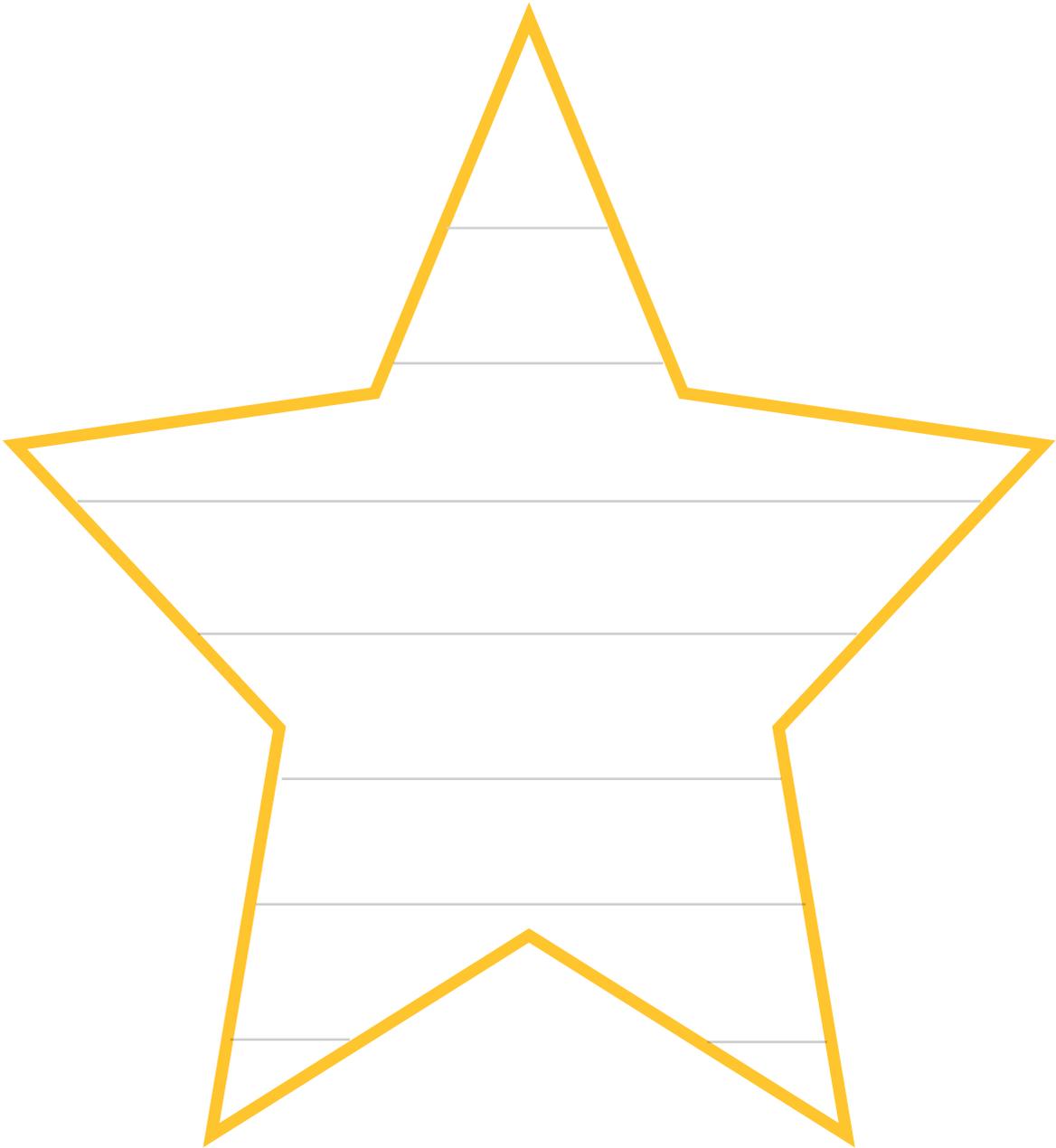


**PARENT TIP!**

Drawing on the lines provided will help your child make these continuous line patterns regular and help size them correctly.

## Help the star twinkle

Make this star shine by drawing lots of yellow patterns on it!  
Can you copy the ones below, and make sure that all your  
lines are the same size?

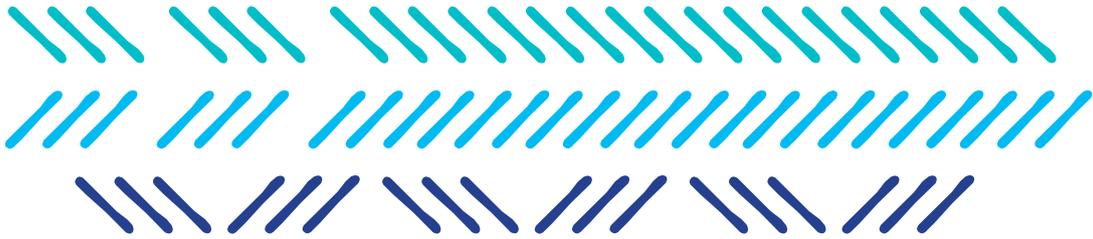


**PARENT TIP!**

These patterns look fairly simple but they can be challenging for young children. Encourage your child to make the lines really vertical or horizontal.

## Splash some water around

Our frogs need some pond water to hop around in – can you draw it in using these diagonal patterns? Use different shades of blue to make it look especially watery!

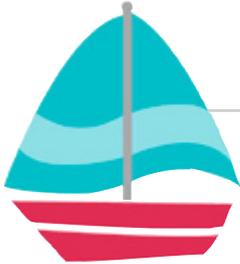
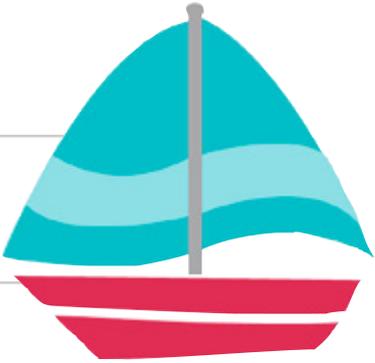
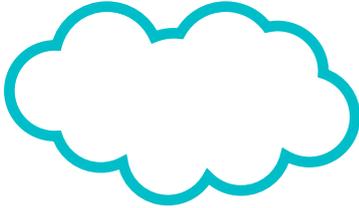
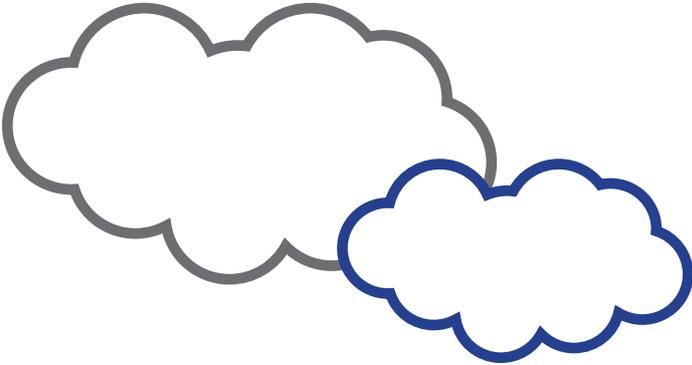
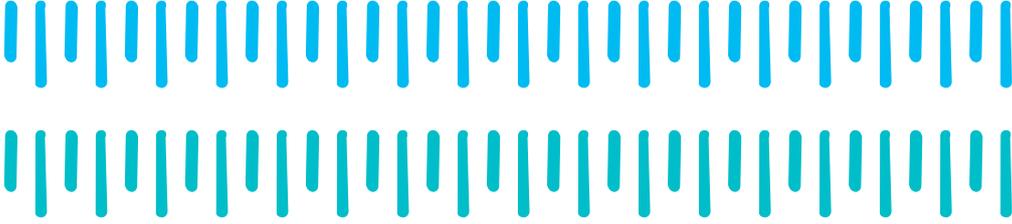


**PARENT TIP!**

This pattern can be tricky and require practice; it's difficult for children to draw true diagonals.

# Make it rain

These boats are sailing through a rain shower! Can you draw in lots of raindrops? Try to draw your rain on the lines if you can, and make each drop the same size.

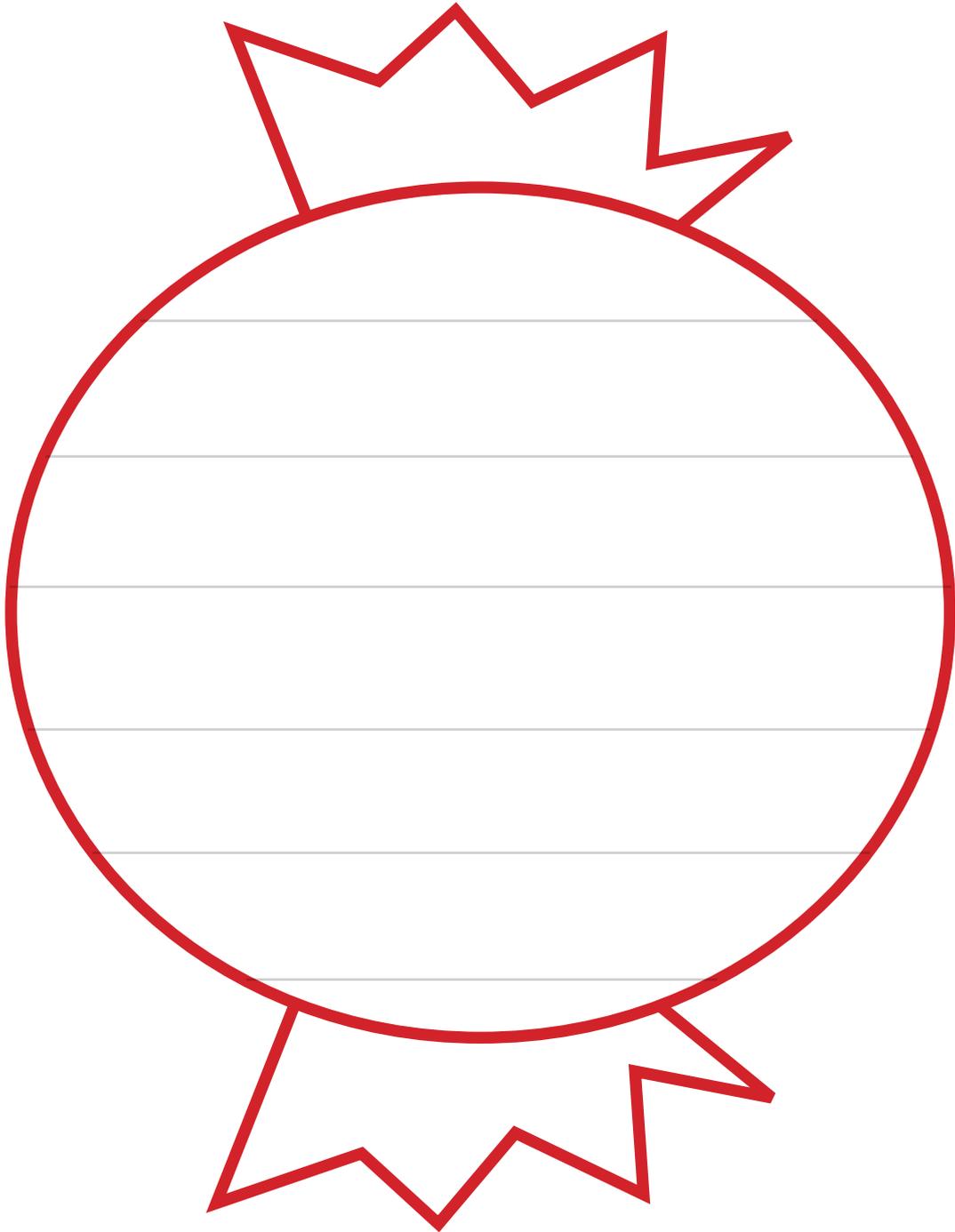
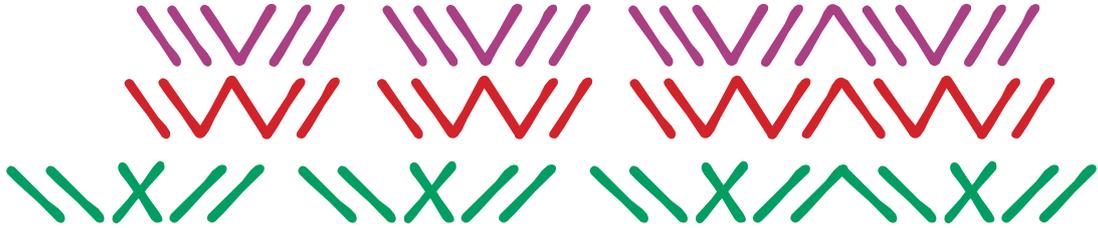


**PARENT TIP!**

Make sure your child draws these patterns in a downward direction.

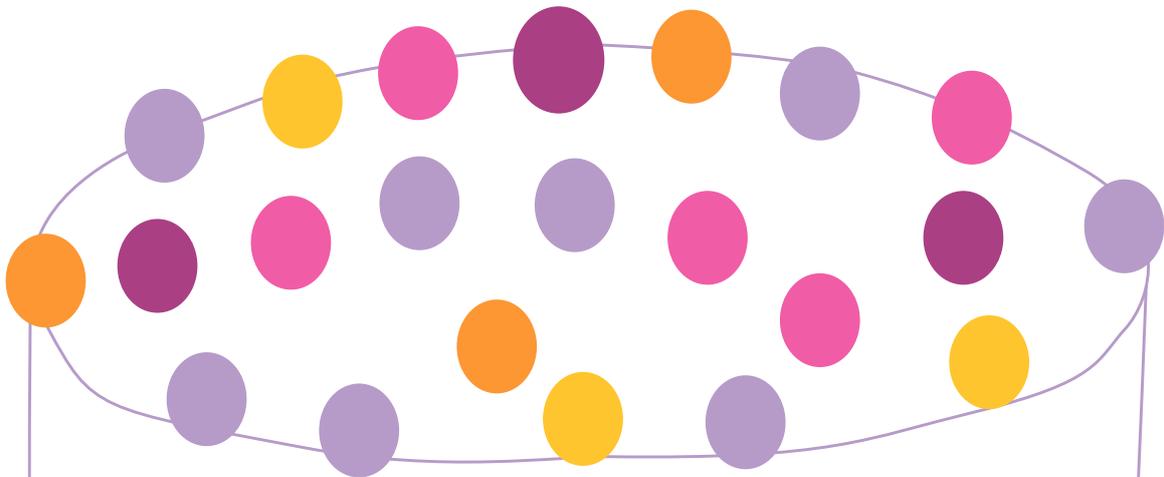
## Decorate the Christmas cracker

Can you cover this cracker in colourful patterns like the ones below?  
Try to write on the lines and keep all your patterns the same size!



## Draw the Smarties on the cake

Do you like chocolate? Cover this cake in crunchy chocolate Smarties  
- trace the o pattern on the first two lines then write it yourself.



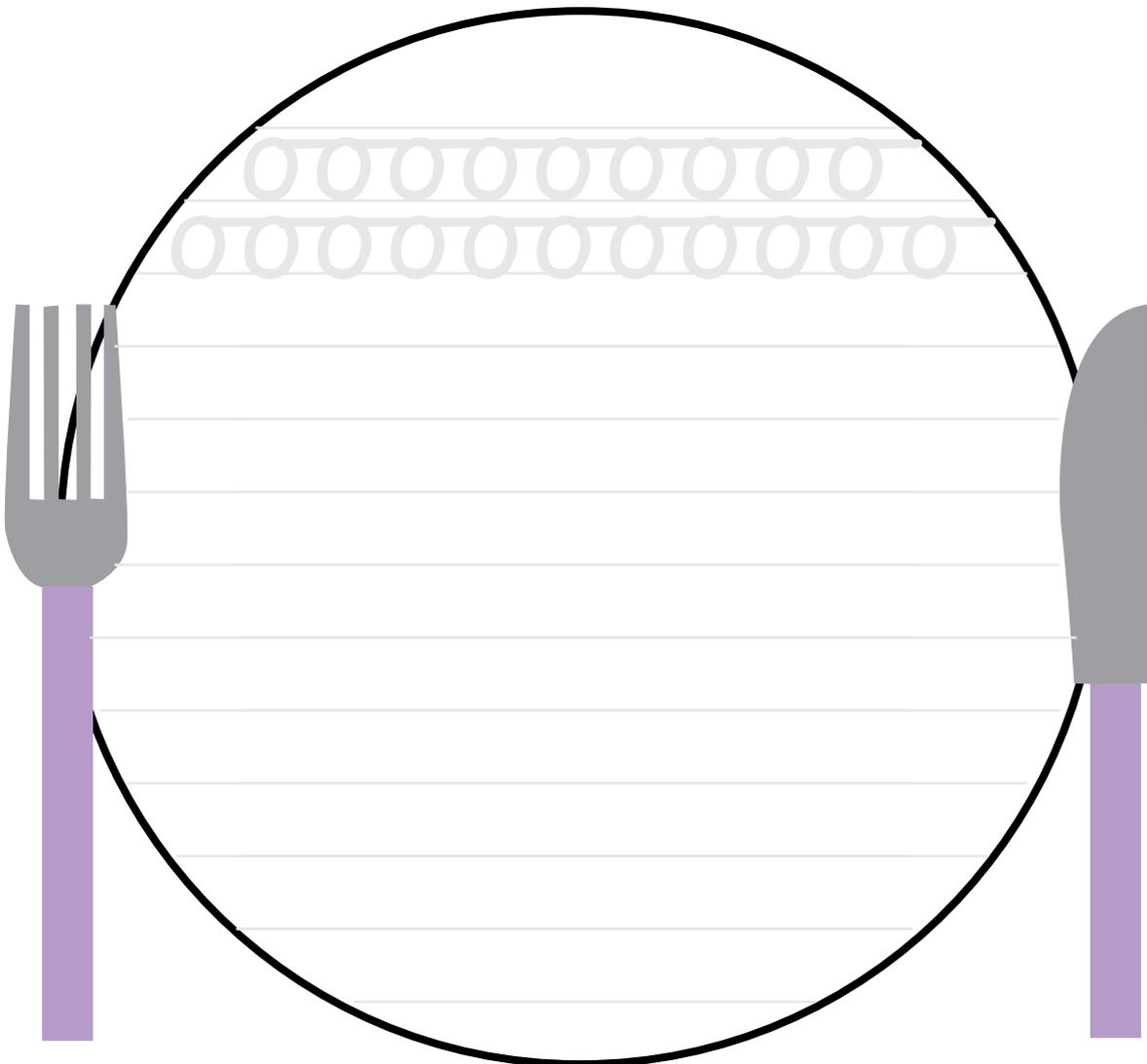
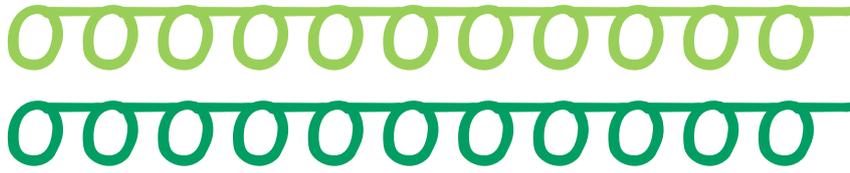
Four horizontal lines for writing the letter 'o' independently.

**PARENT TIP!**

Ensure your child makes the circles in an anticlockwise direction. Left-handers especially might find this needs practice.

## A plate full of peas

Can you fill this plate with plenty of peas? Use a green pencil or pen to make them look authentic!



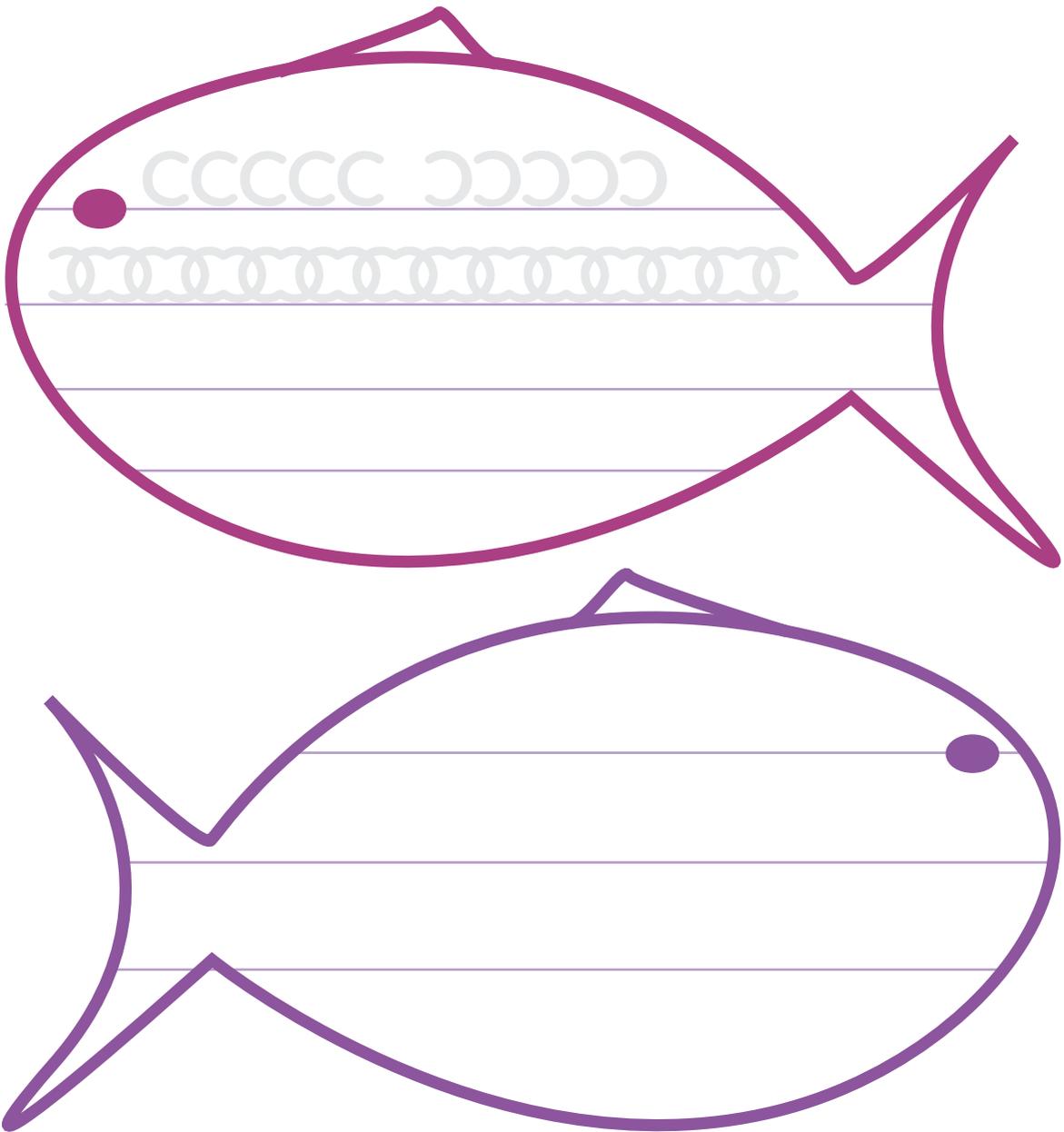
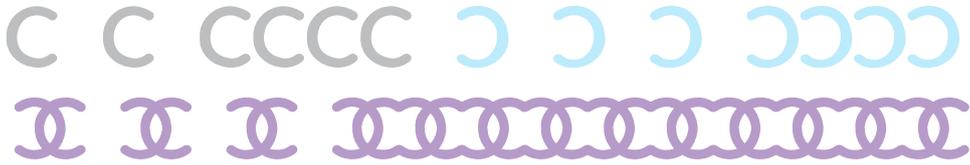
**PARENT TIP!**

Your child should start drawing their circles at the top and move their pen in an anticlockwise direction.



## Fish need scales!

These fish have lost their scales – can you draw them back in? Don't forget to draw on the lines and keep all your scales the same size!

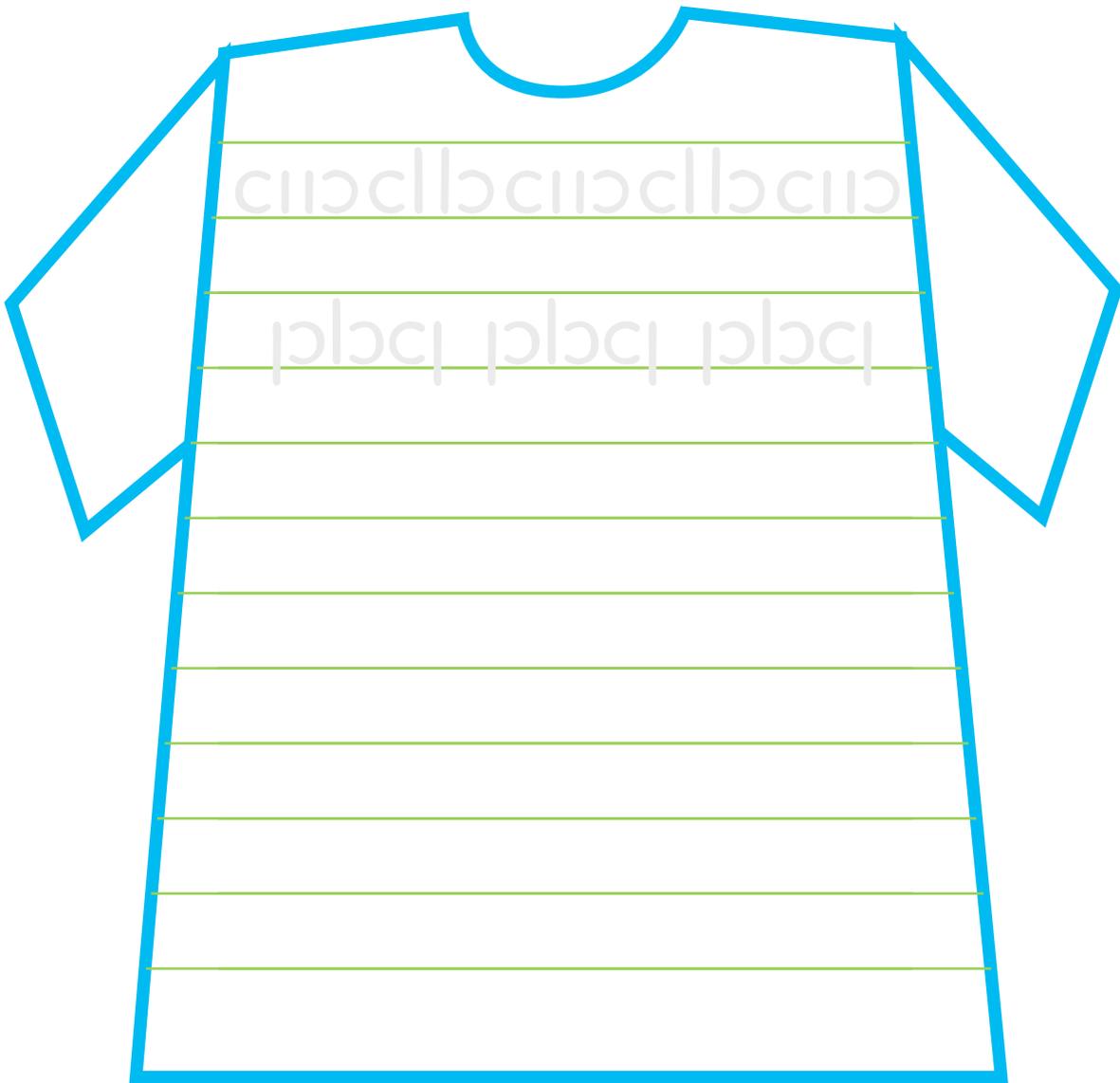


**PARENT TIP!** Make sure the 'fish scales' are really rounded in shape.

## Design a fashionable top

Mix round shapes and straight shapes and what do you get? A pattern that's just for you! Decorate the T-shirt with a mixture of these patterns and create your own unique design. Trace them first, then have a go at writing them yourself!

o u c c l l c c o u c c l l c c  
p b c c p b c c



**PARENT TIP!**

These patterns combine round strokes with straight strokes above and below the line, just like real words.



## Dotting and crossing

Some letters have dots on them and others have lines across them. Can you practise the tricky dots and cross-bars by covering this balloon in this pattern?

ilt ilt ilt ilt ilt ilt

ilt ilt ilt ilt ilt  
ilt ilt ilt ilt ilt ilt

## Decorate the cars with patterns and dots

More dotting practice! Choose a coloured pencil or pen and cover the cars with this pattern. Don't forget the dot at the end!

uyj uyj uyj uyj

