

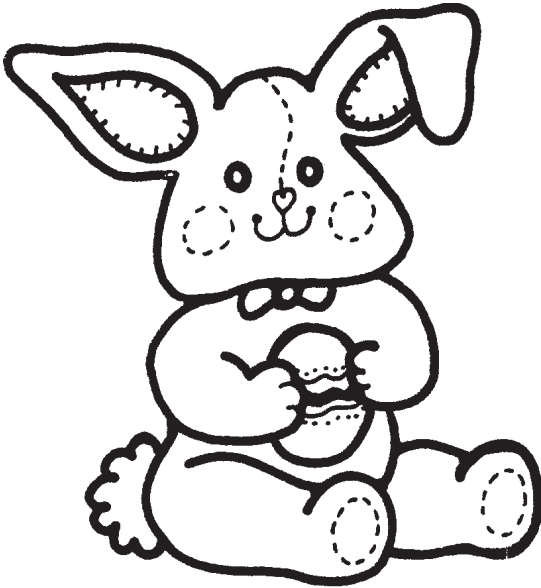
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April Calendar

The patterns below can be duplicated, and numbers can be put on the back of each one. A child can lift each day's pattern from its pin and place it over another pin on the corresponding day on the calendar board.

A transparency can be made of the pictures on the opening page of this book for the top of the calendar. Trace the enlarged picture on poster board. Color in the picture with marking pens and laminate it for a long-lasting poster.





April Fools' Day

April Fools' Day is not a major holiday—the child in each of us keeps it alive. Playing a trick on a friend or a family member is one thing we all enjoy.

Historians are not certain how the custom started. It is believed to have begun in France when the Gregorian calendar was adopted in 1582. At that time, New Year's Day was changed from March 25 to January 1. Visits and gifts had always been exchanged during the New Year's season which always ended on April 1. When the date changed, some French people began mocking the old practices by giving funny gifts and pulling tricks on those they visited.

Appropriately, April Fools' Day comes at a time of year when Mother Nature is often playing tricks with the weather. One day, it will feel as though spring has arrived, and the next day, a cold wind or rain convinces us that it is winter again!

What tricks might we play on April Fools' Day? A harmless but fun trick might be to exchange the sugar in the sugar bowl for salt. We might pin a funny slogan on the back of a friend's coat. We could also play the fool by wearing stockings that don't match or by having a jacket on backwards. Can you think of other good but harmless tricks to play on a friend, or other ways to act the fool? Celebrate April Fools' Day for the fun of it!

