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# INTRODUCTION

Who says small learning areas have to be boring? *Creative Corners for Early Learners* contains hundreds of ideas to easily turn these small areas, such as reading labs, student work areas or home-school classrooms, into bright and attractive themed environments. Students will feel special and motivated as they work on their skills in a colorful and fun learning space.

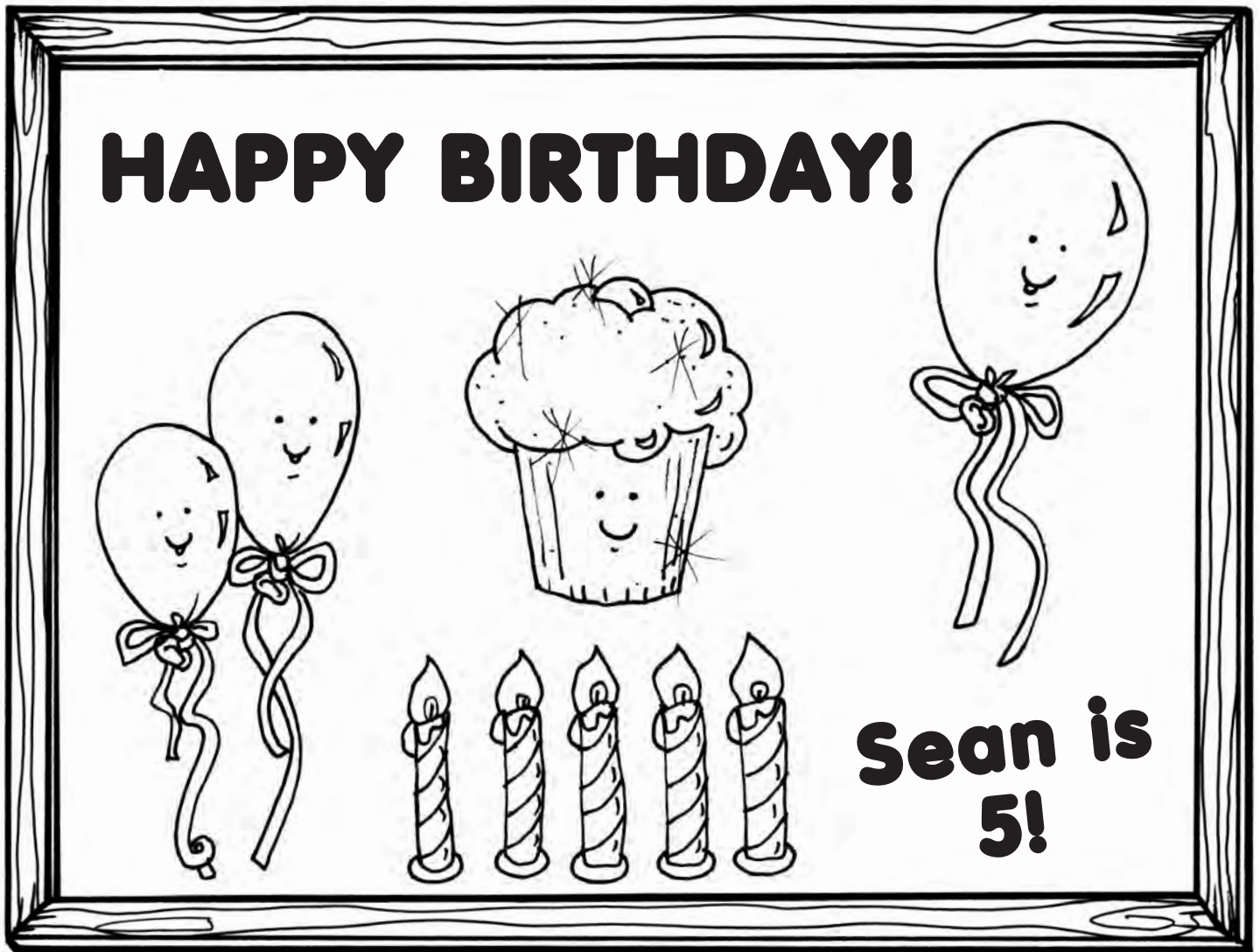
The units presented in *Creative Corners* are divided into seasons, so it is easy to pick a theme to keep your learning area current.

Each unit features the following sections:

- a customizable **Bulletin Board** with patterns
- a **Happy Hanger** mobile, featuring seasonal and themed displays
- a **Paper Hugger** to spotlight special student work
- an **Easy Easel** to add three-dimensional fun to your desks and tables
- a **Fold-Over** to enhance communication and organize your paperwork
- two **Box Enders** to customize your storage area
- an **Easy Extra** idea for a quick gift, craft or other fun add-on to your theme unit

The first section of the book provides basic instructions and suggestions for all project types. This is followed by the 24 themed units, which provide the framework to create your environment. But this is just the start! There are so many ways to expand on the ideas in *Creative Corners*. Fill your whole learning environment with sensory reminders of the unit you are featuring. Don't limit yourself to the patterns and ideas presented in this resource book. For example, get creative with snack ideas. Use stickers or colorful markers to decorate party-time napkins, perhaps personalizing cups with students' names. Or place themed toys or decorations on bookcases and window ledges. Use holiday stickers when giving feedback on papers or charts. Dress-ups, movies, music and themed games are all part of the enriching the learning environment.

So go ahead, immerse your learners. Surrounded by exciting and interesting visuals, they will be eager to listen, observe, remember and, most importantly, learn!



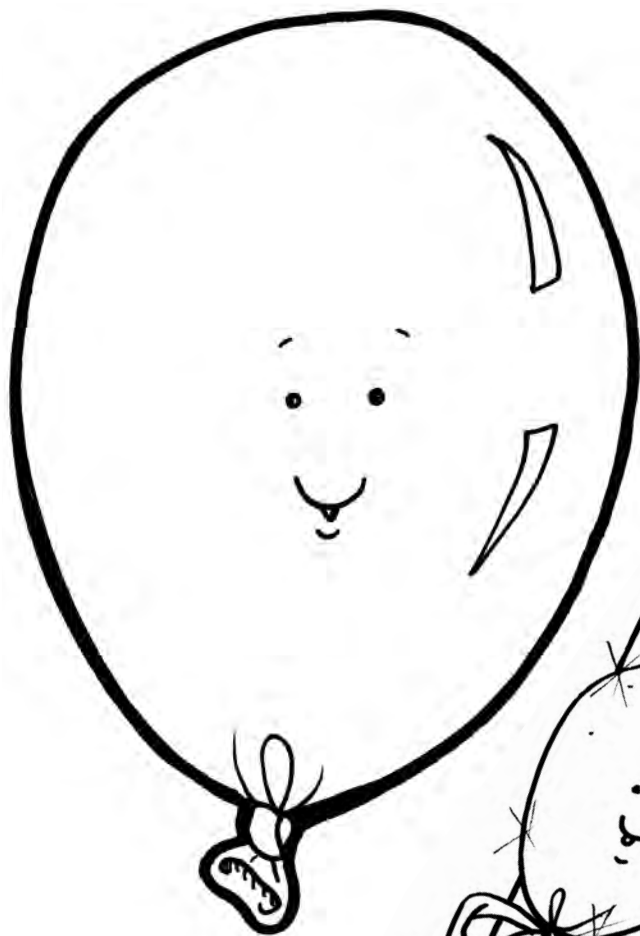
### **Bulletin Board**

1. Cover the bulletin board with colorful birthday-themed wrapping paper.
2. Title the board "Happy Birthday!"
3. Enlarge the cupcake pattern on page 85 on heavy white paper to fit the center of the bulletin board as shown. Color the pattern with bright colors and cut it out. You may also wish to make several smaller copies of the cupcake, color them, and add fun facts about the birthday student on the frosting area of the cupcake. Attach the cupcake(s) to the bulletin board.
4. Decorate the board with small balloons and streamers.

### Easy Easel



1. Follow the main directions on page 10 to create the base.
2. Reproduce the cupcake pattern on pastel-colored cardstock. Cut out, color, and decorate the pattern.
3. Glue the pattern near the top of the folded plate as shown. Using a paper punch, punch a few holes next to the cupcake along the folded edge of the plate. Tie ribbon streamers through the punched holes.
4. Personalize the easel as desired.



### Fold-Over

1. Follow the main directions on page 11 to create the base using white paper.
2. Reproduce the balloon pattern on brightly-colored paper. Cut out the pattern and decorate it.
3. Tape small lengths of curled ribbon to the base of the balloon pattern.
4. Attach the balloon to the base, and personalize the Fold-Over as desired.