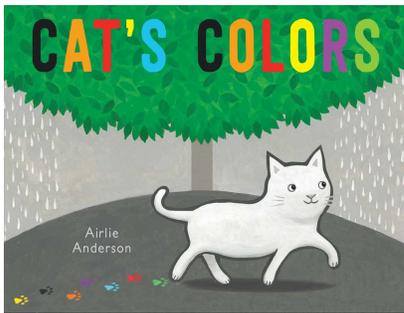
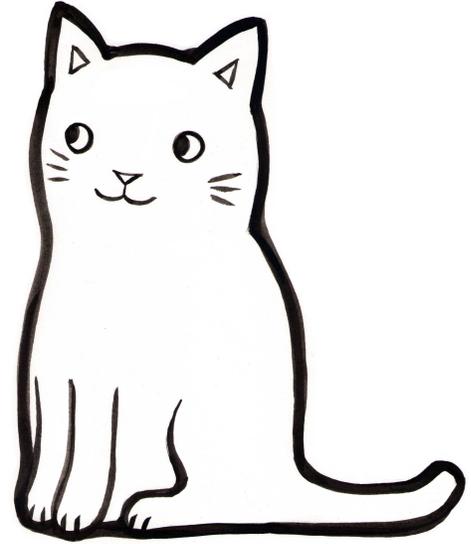


Cat's Colors: Picture Book Play

ABOUT PICTURE BOOK PLAY

Picture Book Play is an activity that engages your child more deeply in the stories you are reading together. When the stories, characters, or concepts of a picture book appear in a child's world off the page, your child becomes more engaged with the page. For example, when you read a book about a little blue truck, point out blue trucks in the real world and remind your child about the story you read together.

Why is this important? The more connections you make between books and day-to-day life, the more important books become for your child (and you). When you engage your child with conversations about the books you are sharing with him, his literacy skills increase. Stronger literacy skills will serve your child throughout his life.



ABOUT THE BOOK

CAT'S COLORS

By Airlie Anderson
Published by Child's Play-International
ISBN-13: 9781846437618
Series: Child's Play Library
Age Range: 3 - 7 Years

What better thing to do on a gray day than collect some colors? Cat decides to do just that, but where will she find them? A charming, deceptively simple story about making the most of the world around us and giving something back in return.

"A fun and simple book that is perfect for fidgety toddlers and will work well in a baby storytime." —School Library Journal

"Gentle and charming." —Kirkus Reviews

ABOUT THE ACTIVITY

Cat collects colors as she explores her world on a gray day. Each new color she encounters appears as a spot on her white fur. Why not explore the house or the neighborhood and see if your child can also collect colors?

You can engage your reader by giving her the cut-out of Cat (found in this packet) and a packet of crayons. Each time you spot a color in the real world, your child can color a corresponding spot on the paper cat.

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ABOUT THE ACTIVITY (cont.)

Cat's secret is that she is about to have kittens. In the sweet logic of children's books, each one of those kittens is born a different color, and each kitten matches a color that mama has collected. The secret is revealed to your reader after two curious spreads of Cat hiding in a shrub. The reward of seeing the full litter of colorful kittens is a reveal sure to make your child gasp.

You can re-create that experience with the cut-out shrub and seven cut-out kittens (found in this packet) to color. When you return from your walk around the neighborhood, you can lead your child to a shrub you have already cut out with seven kittens inside it!

Follow-up activity suggestions allow your child children to make a necklace of colored kittens or a paper standee with mama Cat and her kittens.



PREPARING FOR PLAY

You will, of course, create your own fabulous play! Following are simply suggested ways to create some Picture Book Play.

___ Read the picture book CAT'S COLORS by Airlie Anderson (Child's Play-International) aloud to your child.

___ Make the connection between the kittens' colors and Cat's collection of colors with dialogue like:

"Can you name the colors of the kittens?" [Use the kittens nursing spread.]

"Why do you think the kittens are different colors?"

"Do you think the mama cat went looking for colors to give to her kittens?"

___ Print "Cat" on page 5 on regular paper or cardstock. Cut out Cat.

___ Print the "Cat's Shrub" on page 6 on regular paper. Cut out the shrub.

Cat's Colors: Picture Book Play

PREPARING FOR PLAY (cont.)

___ Print the "Cat's Kittens" on page 7 on regular paper. Cut out the kittens. I know! This is a lot of cutting, but the outcome is pretty adorable!

___ Locate a paper lunch bag or small container.

___ Place the seven cut-out kittens in the bottom of a fully opened lunch bag or in the container. Tape or glue the shrub cut-out to the bag. The bottom of the cut-out should touch the bottom edge of the bag. Fold the bag down and tape it shut. Ideally the shrub cut-out should hide the bag sitting behind it.

___ Hide the "shrub of kittens" inside your house or tuck it in your stroller to hide somewhere on your walk.

___ Gather crayons, tape, and scissors for follow-up craft time at the house.

COLLECTING COLORS

___ Head out on a walk through the neighborhood with the Cat cut-out and a packet of crayons.

"What happened in our book when Cat saw a color?"

"Should we collect colors just like Cat?"

"When we see a new color, can you make a colored spot on cat's fur?"

___ As you and your child see a color, have your child draw that same color on Cat.

FINDING KITTENS

"Have we collected all the colors that Cat collected?"

"What happened after Cat found all the colors?"

"Did she go in the shrub to rest?"

"Should we find Cat's shrub so she can rest?"

___ Lead your child on a search for Cat's shrub.

"What happened when Cat was in the shrub?"

___ Have your child discover the kittens in the bag or container and count them. Are all seven kittens there?

Cat's Colors: Picture Book Play

CRAFTING CAT & HER KITTENS

___ Back at home, invite your child to color the kittens.

“Should those kittens stay white or should they have Cat’s colors?”

___ Consider connecting the kittens to Cat with string and tape. Show your child how to lay the kittens out in a line, colored-side down. Lay a ribbon or string across their backs and tape the string to their backs. If you leave a length of string or ribbon on each end, the kittens can be tied and looped over your child’s head.

___ Alternatively, you can have your child make a standee with Cat and her kittens. If you make a loop out of a 20-25” length of cut up cereal box or poster board that are about 2.25” wide, children can affix the cats to the loop. With Mama Cat is affixed to the inside and the kittens on the outside of the loop, the characters of CAT’S COLORS stand up on their own! This method also works as a pretty amazing CAT’S COLORS hat!

___ Congratulate yourself on colorful Picture Book Play!

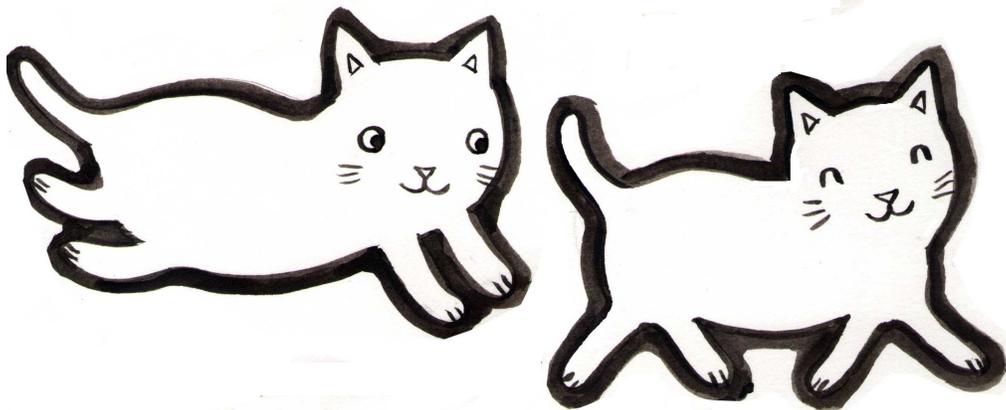
OTHER RESOURCES

Like this Picture Book Play? There are more free children’s literature Story Hour Kits that you can use for Picture Book Play at CuriousCityDPW.com.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR / ILLUSTRATOR

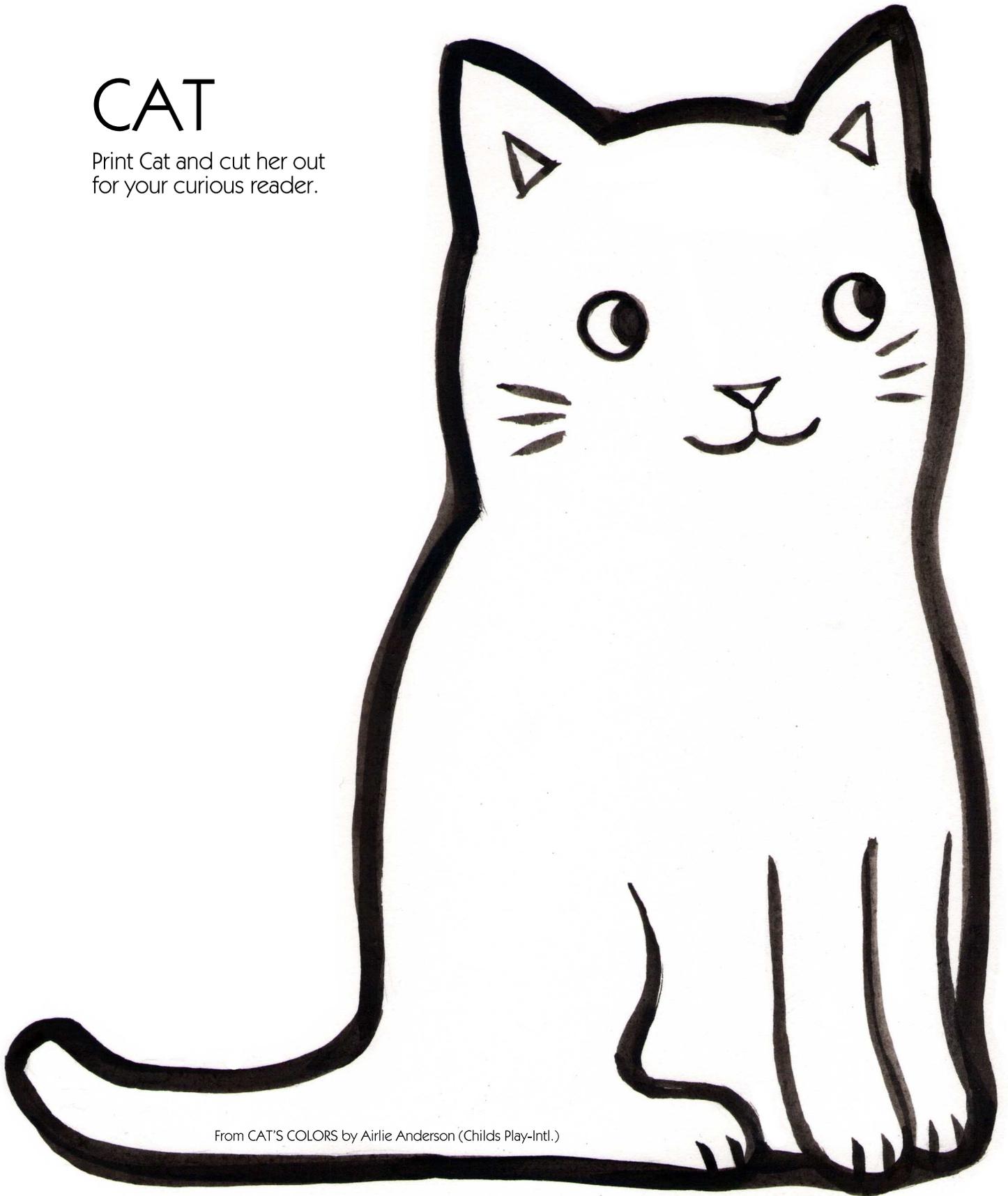
AIRLIE ANDERSON has been published as an author and illustrator by several notable houses such as Child's Play-International, Little Brown & Co, Dover Publications, and Tiger Tales. She is the recipient of several book awards including the 2014 Gold Independent Publishers Book Award, the Best English Language Books for Children (Taiwan), as well as the 2008 Practical Preschool Award. Airlie grew up in Carmel, California. The town's fairytale charm and origins as an artists' colony made a strong impression on her as a child. She graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design with a BFA in illustration and now lives near Princeton, New Jersey.

Discover more at airlieanderson.com.



CAT

Print Cat and cut her out
for your curious reader.



From CAT'S COLORS by Airlie Anderson (Childs Play-Intl.)

CAT'S SHRUB

Print Cat's Shrub on regular paper and cut it out. Attach to the bottom edge of a paper lunch bag.





CAT'S KITTENS

Print Cat's Kittens and cut them out for your curious reader.