Ages 3–5 15–20 minutes · 1 child or a whole class

The Runaway Pie

Bump! The pie rolled off the table. Follow its crumbs to find it!

Everyone is at the table and the pie has just arrived, when it rolls off the edge and away through the house. Your child follows its crumbs through three short stops: counting crumbs, coloring a rug to find a hidden letter, and a wide-path maze. Each stop gives a letter, and the three letters spell what the table says when the pie comes back. Then the pie goes back on the table and your child gets a certificate. It works for a family dinner, a Friendsgiving or any meal you share.

Skills: counting to 10 · telling things apart · color matching · pencil control · letter recognition · scissor practice (straight lines) · gluing · following directions

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What you need

- Crayons or markers, including a red and a yellow
- A pencil
- Child-safe scissors and a glue stick
- Plain printer paper

How to play

1. Nothing to set up: print and go. Keep page 8, the answers and hints, for yourself.
2. Read each page out loud. Your child doesn't need to read anything.
3. Go stop by stop, in order. Each stop ends with a letter for its box: write it for your child, or let them copy it.
4. Stuck? Page 8 has three hints for each stop, from a gentle nudge to almost the answer. Try one hint at a time. Guessing the word early is part of the fun.
5. On page 6, copy the three letters and say the word together. Then cut out the pie and glue it back on the table. For a three-year-old, cut it out yourself and let them glue.
6. Finish with the certificate. Everyone who plays is a Pie Finder.

If a player can't easily see the pictures or uses a screen reader, page 9 tells you what to describe at each stop.

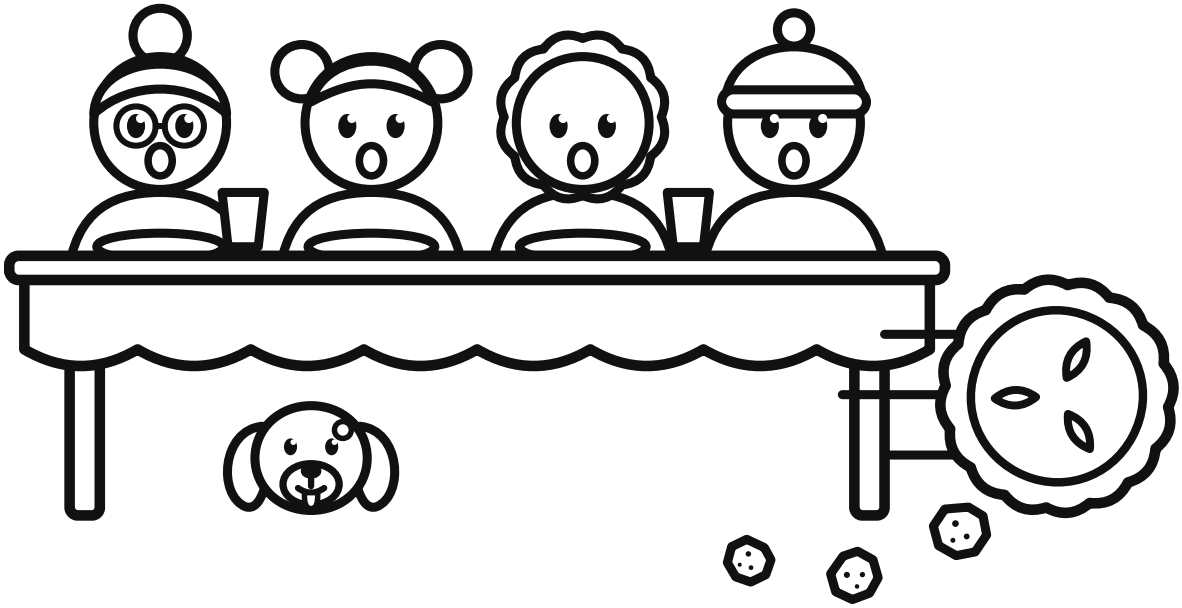
In a classroom

Copy pages 2–7 once per child. The three stops fit a 20-minute center, and the cut-and-glue page can wait for another day. Pages use thick outlines and no big black areas, so they're easy on toner.

Free for home and school use. Please don't post it publicly or sell it.

The Runaway Pie

Everyone is at the table. Here comes the pie!



Bump! The pie rolls off the table and away it goes, leaving crumbs everywhere.

Follow the crumbs and find the pie!



Stop 1

→



Stop 2

→



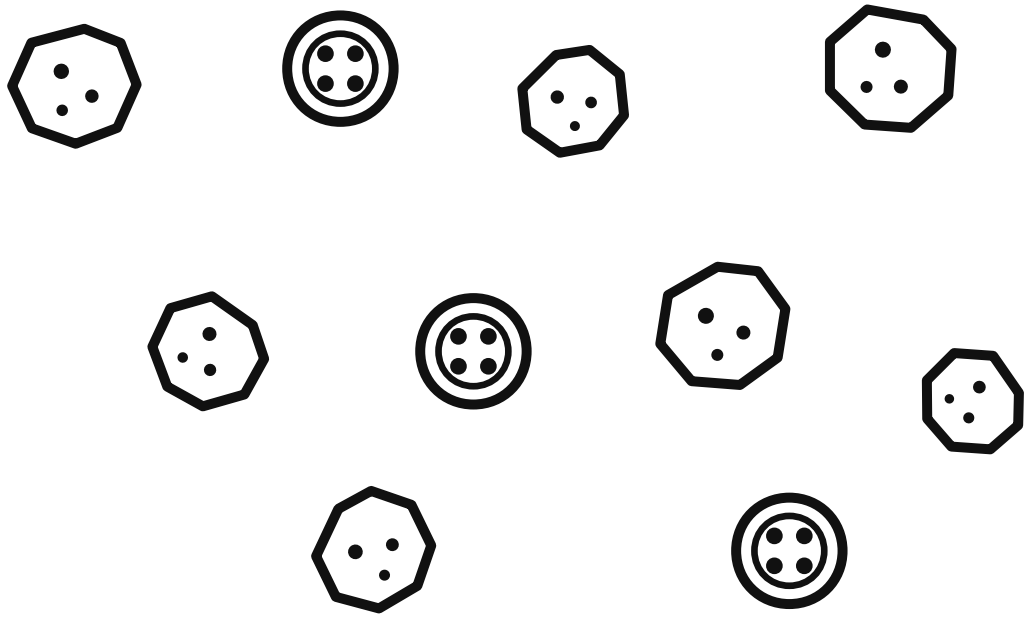
Stop 3

Every stop gives you a letter. Put it in the box.

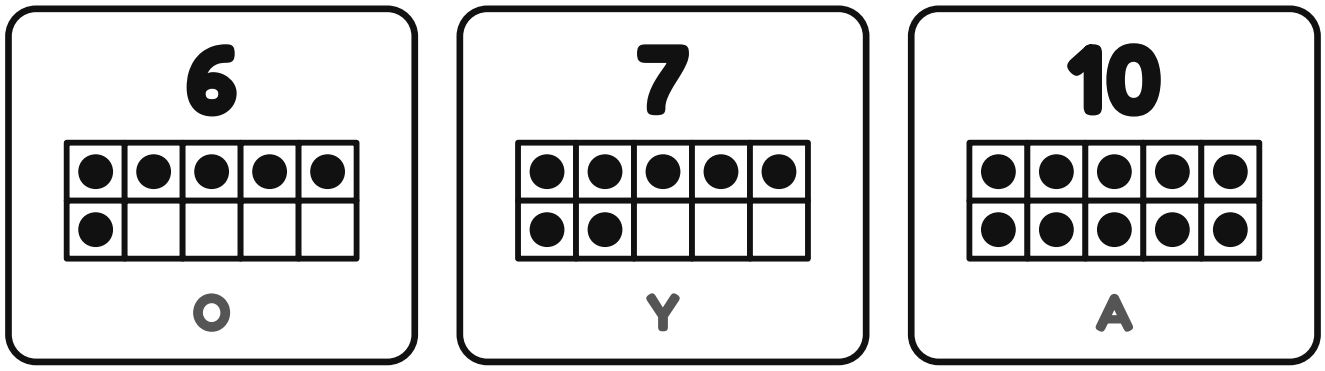
STOP 1

Count the crumbs!

The pie rolled across the floor. Crumbs, and some buttons from the button jar!



Count only the crumbs. Circle the card that matches.



Put the letter from your card in the box.

Stop 1

The crumbs go onto the rug →

STOP 2

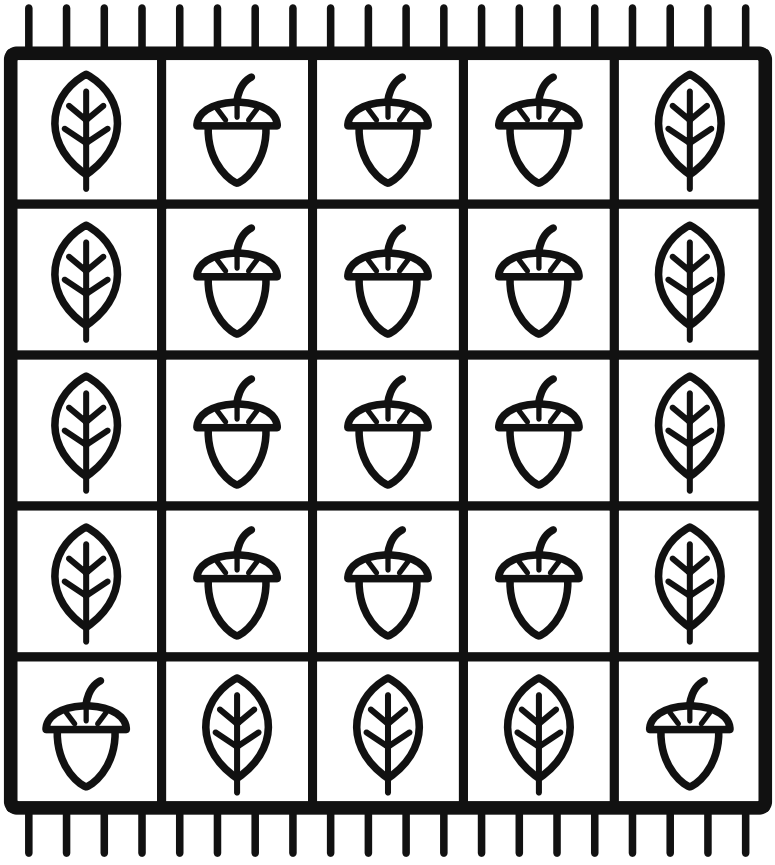
A letter in the rug!

The pie rolled over the big rug. A letter is hiding in it!



1 Color the two crayons: one red, one yellow.

2 Color every square on the rug to match.



What letter do the red squares make?
Put it in the box.

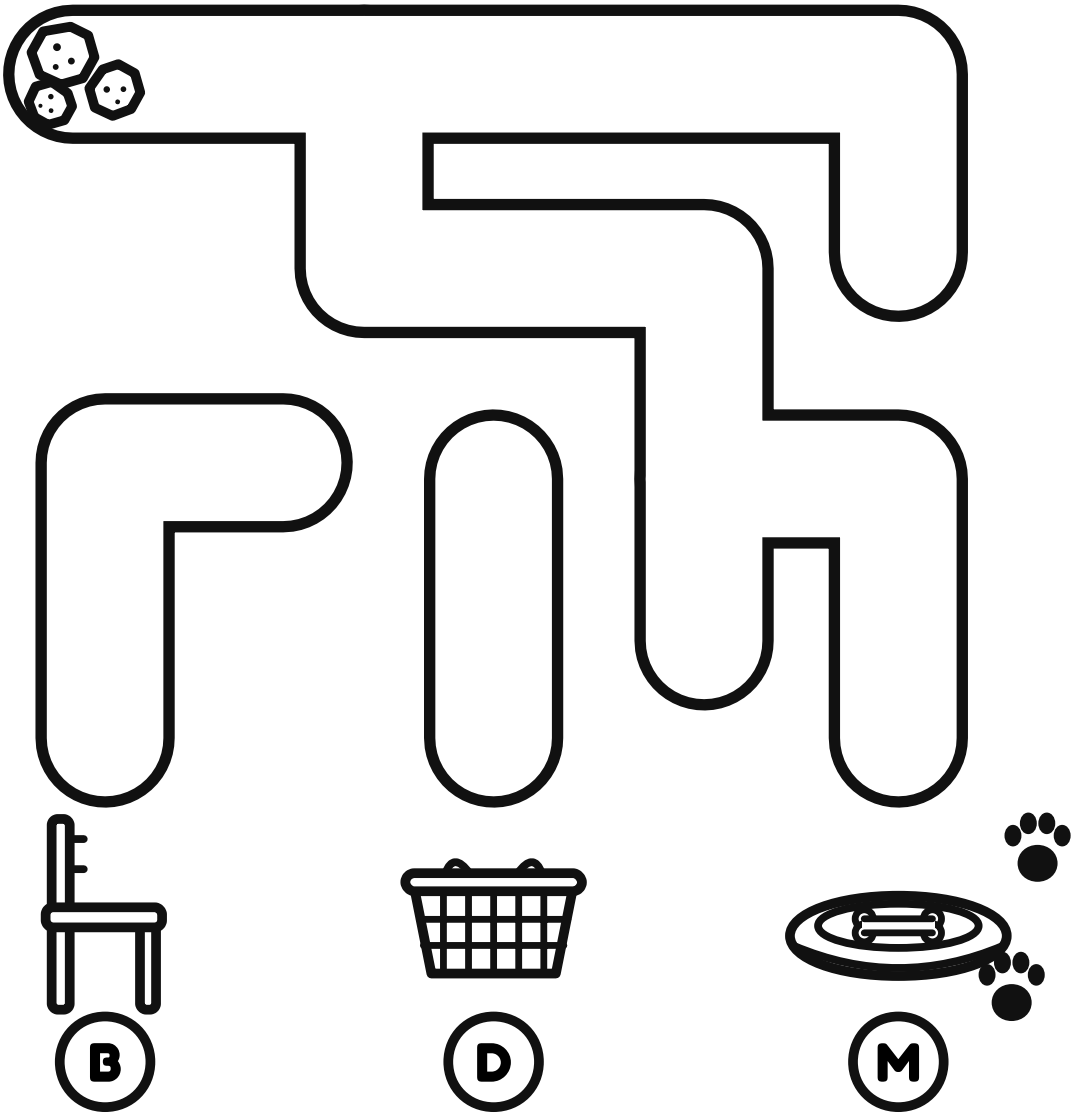
Stop 2

STOP 3

Where did the pie go?

The crumbs go down the hall. Paw prints, too!

Start at the crumbs. Draw the way the pie rolled.

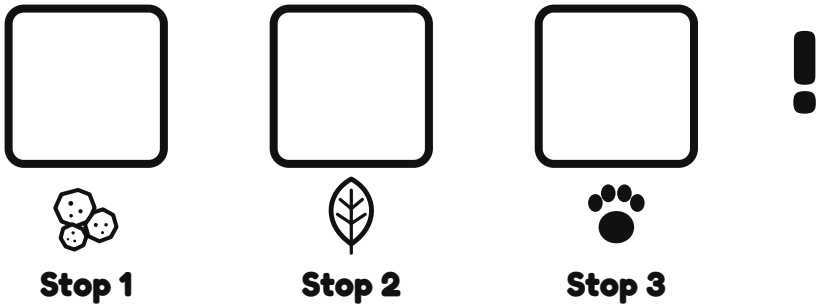


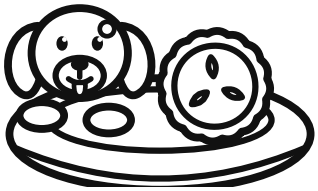
Where does your path end? Put its letter in the box.

Stop 3

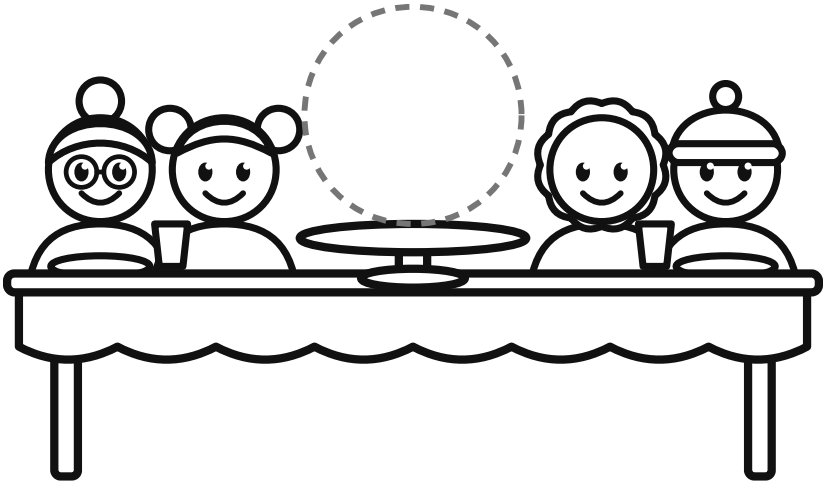
You found the pie!

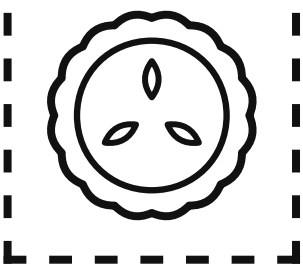
Copy each stop's letter. What does everyone at the table say?



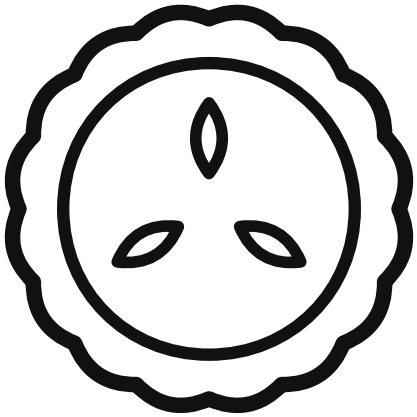


The pie rolled all the way to Biscuit's bed. Biscuit didn't eat one bite. He kept it safe for everyone!





1. Cut on the dashed lines. A grown-up can cut.
2. Glue the pie back on the table.

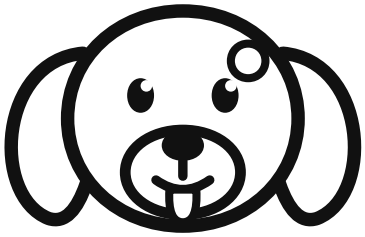


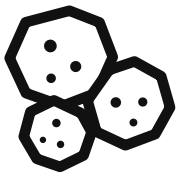
Pie Finder!

This certificate goes to

_____

for following the crumbs and bringing
the pie back to the table. Hooray!





Date: _____

Answers and hints, for grown-ups

Stop 1, the crumbs

7 crumbs; the 3 buttons don't count. The 7 card → **Y**. Counting everything gives 10 (A).

Hints: (1) Are all the round things crumbs? Look at the ones with holes. (2) Touch each crumb as you count it, and skip the buttons. (3) It's one more than 6: find the card with that many dots.

Stop 2, the rug

Leaves red, acorns yellow. The red squares make a big **U**.

Hints: (1) Look at the little picture in each square. Which crayon goes with a leaf? (2) Do the top row first: color the two leaf squares red, then go row by row. (3) Look only at the red squares. The letter is shaped like a cup.

Stop 3, the maze

The road from the crumbs ends at the dog bed → **M**. The roads to the chair and the basket stop short.

Hints: (1) Hit a dead end? Go back to the last turn and try the other way. (2) Keep a finger on the road from the crumbs. Which ends can your finger reach? (3) Think about the paw prints. Whose bed is that?

The word

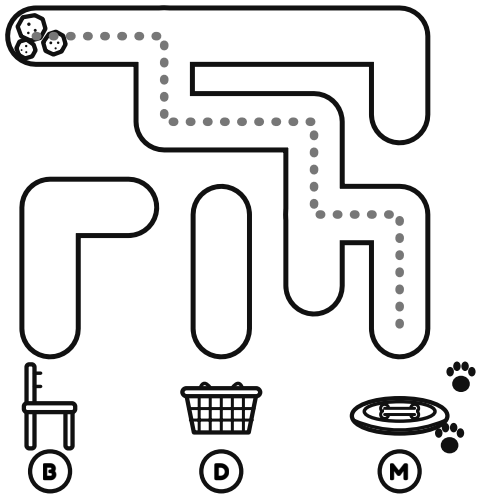
Y, U, M = **YUM**. If the word comes out different, find the stop with the odd letter and do it again together.

The pie

Any spot on the table is right. The dotted circle is only a guide.

If they get stuck

- Read the page out loud again and point to each picture.
- Do it together: you count out loud while they point, or you color one square and they color the next.



Grown-ups get a kit too

Free escape-room kits for older kids, teens and adults are on the same page you got this one from. New kits for this age are added there too. Kinundrum makes personalized puzzle countdowns for families and group chats.

Credits

Illustrations: original art made for this kit. Fonts: Andika (SIL International), SIL Open Font License 1.1; Fredoka (Milena Brandão and Hafontia), SIL Open Font License 1.1.

Reading the pictures aloud

For a player who can't easily see the pictures or uses a screen reader. Read each stop's part aloud, then let your child answer. The hints on page 8 are the same.

Stop 1, count the crumbs

Read the floor one thing at a time, and let your child count only the crumbs. Fingers help.

- Top: crumb, button, crumb, crumb.
- Middle: crumb, button, crumb, crumb.
- Bottom: crumb, button.

The cards: 6, O. 7, Y. 10, A.

Stop 2, a letter in the rug

The rug has five rows of five squares. Read it row by row, left to right:

- Rows 1, 2, 3 and 4: leaf, acorn, acorn, acorn, leaf.
- Row 5: acorn, leaf, leaf, leaf, acorn.

Lay out the same rows with blocks or coins, one for each leaf and a gap for each acorn. Then trace the shape together, their finger under yours, and ask what letter it makes.

Stop 3, where did the pie go?

A tracing maze doesn't read aloud. Trace it together, their finger under yours, or give them the letter from page 8.

The pie and the certificate

Read page 6 together. Cutting and gluing need no notes; help with the scissors and the glue as much as they like.