

Directions for Hatching Chick

By Heidi Butkus

This is a fun little project to do, and doesn't have to be done around Easter time if you simply don't have them paint the egg as shown. You can paint the egg to look like a robin's egg or any other kind of egg, of course.



First, decide if you would prefer to have the children trace their own chicks and eggs, or if you would rather duplicate the patterns for them on a copy machine. If you want them to trace the patterns themselves, you will need to make the patterns for them ahead of time, which is how we do it. I prefer this because it uses fewer "clicks" on the copy machine, and also helps develop their fine motor skills. It also uses less construction paper because the paper can be cut to exactly the right size necessary to go through a copy machine. I cut my tracer patterns out of old file folders saved for this purpose.

Cut paper to the following dimensions: (The paper sizes below for the chick and egg are for use with the tracers, not for duplication on a xerox machine. Otherwise, just cut right size you need for your copy machine.)

Chick: 7" x 10" white

Beak: 1.25" x 1.25" orange (fold diagonally to make a triangle)

Shell: 8.5" x 11" any color

Eyes: 1" x 1" any color, or use round stickers

Also needed: 1 paper fastener per child, yellow tempera paint, kitchen sponges cut into squares, clothespins to hold the sponges while painting, watercolor paints for shell if desired.

Directions:

Note: This is done as a two day project. The chick is done on one day and the shell is done on another.

Day One: Chick

1. Show the children how to trace the chick shape onto the white paper and cut it out. Cut off the corners for the eyes (or put on the sticker eyes.)
2. Fold the square in half diagonally for the beak and glue it down so that it looks like the beak is opened.
3. Remind the children to put their names on the back first, and then sponge paint the chick on the front. We always get the sponges a little bit damp and then squeeze them out in the sink, and then put a clothespin on each one for a handle. I squeeze out some tempera paint onto paper plates and lay the sponges on the plates.

Day Two: Egg

1. Show the children how to trace and cut out their egg.
2. Watercolor paint the eggs as desired.

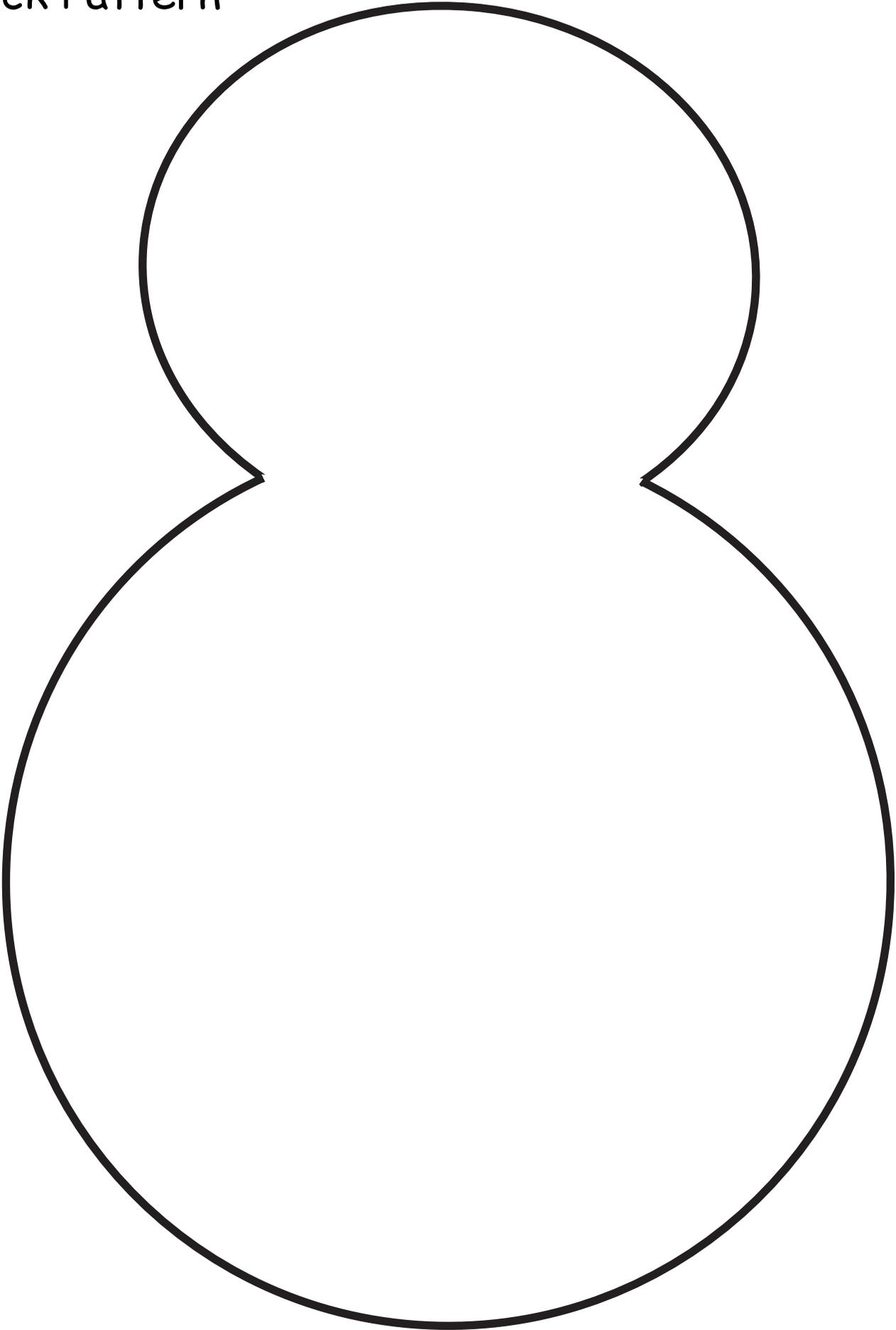
When everything is dry:

Have an adult cut the shell apart for the children in a zig zag pattern as shown and then glue each child's chick to the back of the bottom section of his or her shell.

The adult also attaches the paper fastener. I have never had the children do this part of the project, so I couldn't say how it will turn out if you let them try it themselves! I think it is worth the time, though, because I always put these chicks on my bulletin boards as a nice spring display.



Chick Pattern



Egg Pattern

