



From Tsehai's Producers

Welcome to the first issue of *Tsehai's News*, a newsletter for parents and teachers. Although the children's television program *Tsehai Loves Learning* is based on successful teaching methods, the lessons in each show should be reinforced through complementary activities at home and school in order to be most effective. The primary objective of this newsletter, therefore, is for the distribution of complementary activities; however, we hope it will become even more useful by developing into a community of parents and teachers who are committed to the betterment of children's lives. We intend to include sections on parenting and teaching tips, information about how the mind of a child works, and articles and feedback submitted by the parenting and teaching community. We also hope this newsletter will become a place for children's artwork and articles. Thank you for being one of the first to read this newsletter and join in Tsehai's community of parents and teachers.

This Week's Episode

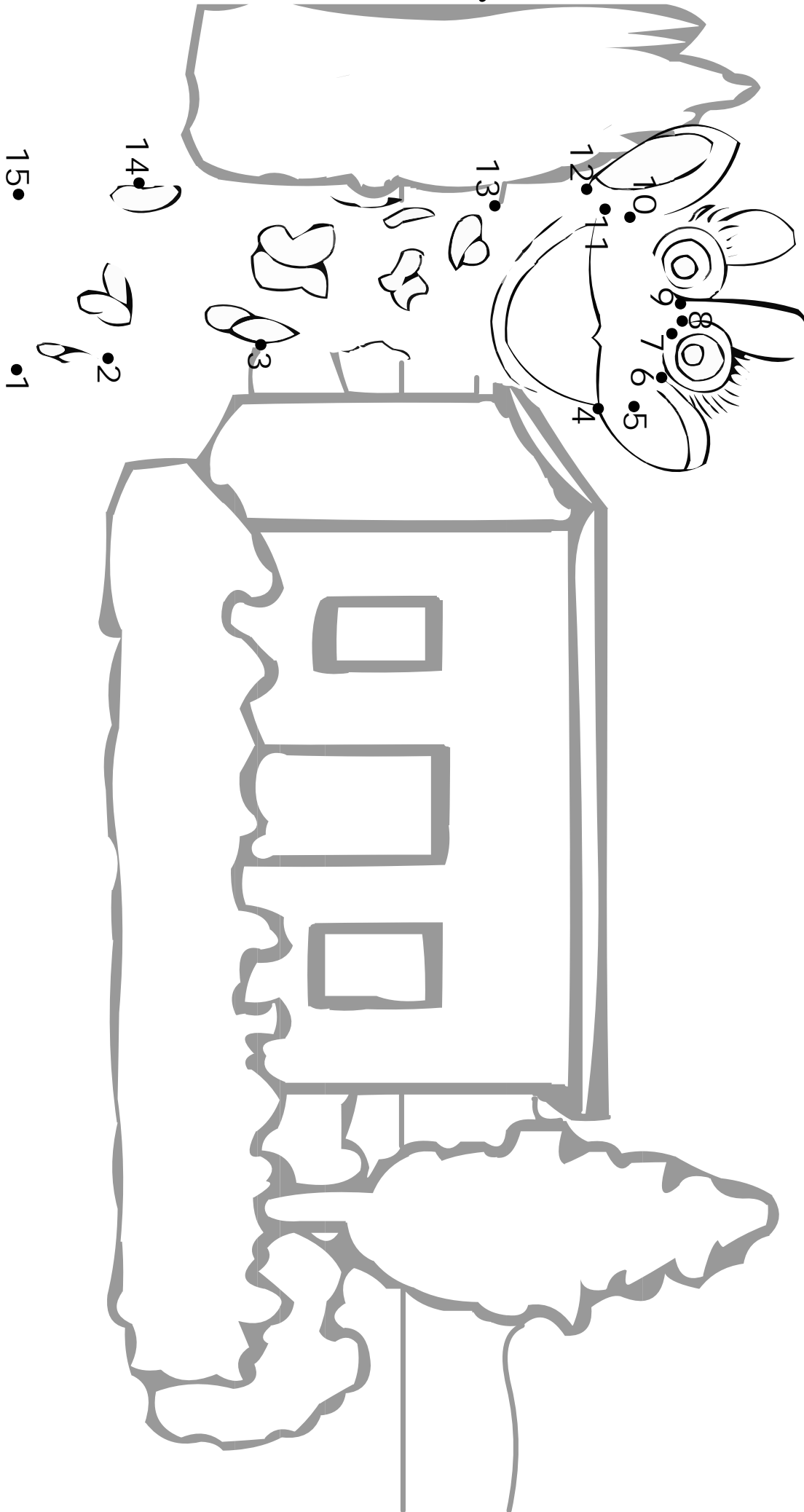
Tsehai is introduced to the world along with her father and neighbor in the very first broadcast of *Tsehai Loves Learning* on Sunday, September 17th 2006 on ETV. "Counting Candies" will be re-broadcast on Sunday, September 24th.

In this episode, Tsehai is walking home when she discovers the children watching the show. Tsehai introduces herself and invites the children to come and play with her. Tsehai introduces the children to her dad, and then counts to 10 for him. The numbers appear on the screen before she counts, giving the children at home the chance to count along with her. Dad asks her to come and help out in the shop. Tsehai is then seen in the shop and the neighbor Mr. Turtle shows up and says hello. Tsehai introduces the children to Mr. Turtle who asks for 15 candies. Dad asks Tsehai to count out the candies for Mr. Turtle, but Tsehai only knows how to count to 10. Mr. Turtle and Dad help Tsehai count out 15 candies for Mr. Turtle.

The learning objectives for this episode are:

- 1. Getting comfortable with the new learning environment**
- 2. Counting to 15**

Worksheet 1 - for Activity 1



Worksheet 2 - for Activities 2 through 8

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
10	11	12
13	14	15

Activities

Activity 1 - Connect the dots

- Objectives - Become familiar with Tsehai, count to 15, develop fine motor skills
- Materials Needed - Crayons, printout of "Worksheet 1"
- Steps - Have your child complete the picture of Tsehai by connecting the dots, starting with the dot next to the number 1 and working their way up in order to the dot next to the number 15.

Activity 2 - Count and color

- Objectives - Count to 15, develop fine motor skills, recognize numbers 1 to 15
- Materials Needed - Crayons, printout of "Worksheet 2"
- Steps - Have your child count the dots in each box. When they count the number of dots in a box correctly, they should color in the number and the dots in the box.

Activity 3 - Count them out

- Objectives - Develop a concrete feeling for the meaning of a number and connect this with the written representation of the number
- Materials Needed - Printout of "Worksheet 2" from Activity 2; 15 small pebbles, buttons, marbles, or other small objects (This activity is for children aged 3 or older. Small objects may be a choking hazard for children under 3.)
- Steps - For each number on the worksheet, have the child count out an equal number of small objects and place them on the worksheet around the correct number. If the objects are small enough, the child can place them directly on the dots.

Activity 4 - Flash cards

- Objectives - Memorize the written forms of numbers 1 to 15
- Materials Needed - Printout of "Worksheet 2" from Activity 2, a pair of scissors
- Steps - Cut out the boxes on "Worksheet 2" for your child. Mix the cards up. Hold up a card and have the child read the number. If they have trouble with one, let them count the dots. Repeat this activity until the children get good at recognizing the numbers.
- Note - These cards will be used in all the following activities. You may want to glue the cutouts onto cardboard to make them more durable. If you do this, make sure the back of the cards all look identical.

Activity 5 - Face up stack

- Objectives - Recognize numbers from 1 to 15, learn the sequence of numbers from 1 to 15
- Materials Needed - Flash cards from Activity 4
- Steps - Mix up all the cards and place them in front of the child. Have the child pick up the cards and stack them in order.

Activity 6 - Face down stack

- Objectives - Learn the sequence of numbers from 1 to 15, strengthen memory
- Materials Needed - Flash cards
- Steps - This activity is the same as in Activity 5, but the cards are kept face down. Mix up all the cards and place them face down in front of the child. Have the child pick up one card at a time looking for number 1. If the card chosen is not number 1, the child should return it face down to the place they picked it up. If the child finds number 1, place it in a stack next to the child and begin to look for number 2. Let the child continue to do this until they have placed all 15 in their stack in order.

Activity 7 - Face down stack game (For two people)

- Objectives - Learn the sequence of numbers from 1 to 15, strengthen memory, learn value comparison, learn to play nicely with others (wait patiently for one's turn, be happy even when losing, and not show off and brag when winning)
- Materials Needed - Flash cards
- Steps - Parent or teacher should hide two cards behind their back. Children should pick an arm. The child that selects the highest number goes first. Help the children figure out which number is higher by counting out objects like in Activity 3 if necessary. This activity is the same as Activity 6, except that two people, (two children, or one child and one parent or teacher) take turns looking for the next number in the sequence. Start by looking for number 1. If a player turns up an incorrect card, they should place it back where they found it. If a player turns up number 1, they should place it in a stack and then the player gets another turn and begins looking for number 2. This should continue, with players taking another turn if they find the correct number in the sequence, or passing their turn to the next player if they don't. The game continues until all 15 numbers are stacked in sequence.

Activity 8 - Face down stack game 2 (For two people)

- Objectives - Learn the sequence of numbers from 1 to 15, strengthen memory, learn value comparison, learn to play nicely with others (wait patiently for one's turn, be happy even when losing, and not show off and brag when winning)
- Materials Needed - 2 sets of flash cards
- Steps - This game is the same as Activity 7, except that there are two sets of cards mixed together and placed face down in front of the two players. Each player makes their own stack from 1 to 15.

Parenting and Teaching Tip: The time-out

When your young child between 2 and 8 misbehaves, one of the most effective ways to help them correct their behavior is through a "time-out." The idea of a time-out is to remove your child from a situation in which they are misbehaving and to give them some quiet time in which to calm down. Take the child away from the place in which the misbehavior is occurring and place them in an environment in which they can calm down. The child should remain in time-out for one minute for each year of their life, so a 3 year old should remain in time-out for 3 minutes, and a 6 year old should remain in time-out for 6 minutes. Less time may not be enough for the child to cool down, and more time might shift the child's focus to being angry about the time-out.

When the time-out is over, ask the child why they were placed in time-out. Discuss it with them and make sure they understand what the behavior is that needs to be corrected. Without having a time-out to diffuse the situation first, this kind of conversation can be impossible to have with your child, and they may not easily gain an understanding of what behavior needs to be corrected. The time-out will not only help the child calm down, it will also help the parent let go of any frustration with the child enough so that they can discuss the situation and the child can learn from the experience most effectively.

How You Can Help

We hope you and your children enjoy *Tsehai Loves Learning*, this newsletter, and all the other efforts Whiz Kids Workshop is making to improve the lives of Ethiopian children. These efforts are the result of hard work on the part of many individuals who are inspired by their love for children and their ambition to make a better world for them. We hope this newsletter has found in you another individual who wishes to join our family and add their love and dedication to the betterment of children's lives everywhere. These projects are just beginning, and in order to continue making this material for you and your children, we need your support. There are a number of ways in which you can contribute to the efforts of Whiz Kids Workshop.

1. Distribute the newsletter

If you enjoy the newsletter, help increase the number of people it reaches. Make copies for your friends. Tell your children's teachers and school administrators about the newsletter. If you are in a school, make copies available for parents.

2. Share *Tsehai Loves Learning* with other children

We're happy that you and your child are enjoying *Tsehai Loves Learning*, but there are many children in Ethiopia who do not have access to television. Think about ways in which you can share this television program and the activities in this newsletter with less privileged children. If you find a good way to share our efforts with more children, please let us know at the contact addresses found below.

3. Support our sponsors

Some funding for *Tsehai Loves Learning* has been provided by sponsors. Currently UNESCO, Photo Sharp, and Habesha Traditional Center have contributed to the development of our projects. Call or visit our sponsors and tell them you appreciate their support of *Tsehai Loves Learning*. Let them know that their commitment to the betterment of children's lives will have an influence on your future purchases related to their products or services.

4. Sponsor our newsletter

If you are part of the marketing of a company, consider sponsoring our newsletter. Place an advertisement in our newsletter and make copies of *Tsehai's News* available in your retail locations.

5. Send us your comments and stories

We're constantly trying to improve our efforts. Our work is not perfect, but everything is done with love and the desire to make the world better for your children. If you have comments or suggestions, we'd love to hear from you. If you have stories about how you use *Tsehai Loves Learning* or *Tsehai's News* in your home or school please share them with us. If you have articles or activities that you think might be of interest to readers of *Tsehai's News* please write us. If your child writes a story or creates artwork that you'd like to share with the family of *Tsehai's News* readers, we look forward to receiving them. Contact information is found below for all your feedback.

How to Subscribe

If you received a printed copy of *Tsehai's News* and would like to make sure that you never miss another issue, you can subscribe to our newsletter by sending an e-mail to newsletter@whizkidsworkshop.com.

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P.O. Box 608 Code 1250, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
091-1-653994, 011-5-151611 - tsehai@whizkidsworkshop.com