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free

Barrier Games for Language: Build a Cupcake Party

susan berkowitz, slp



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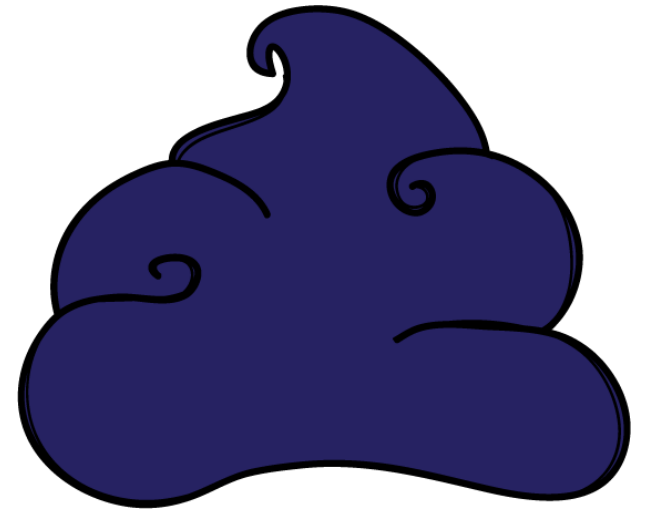
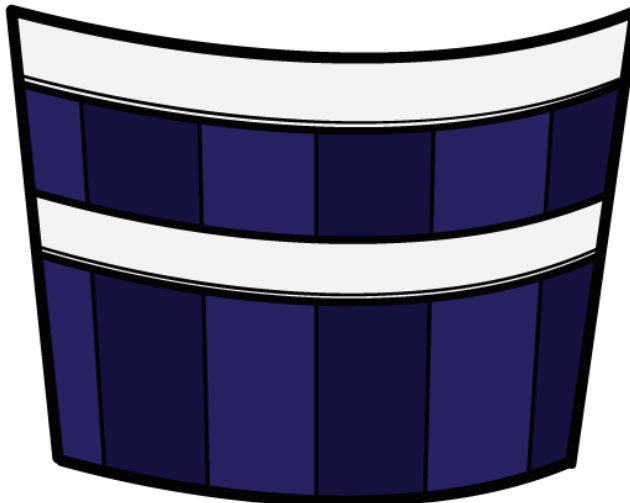
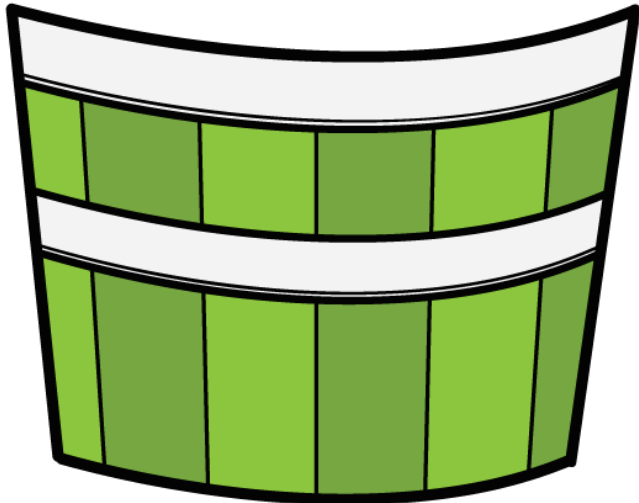
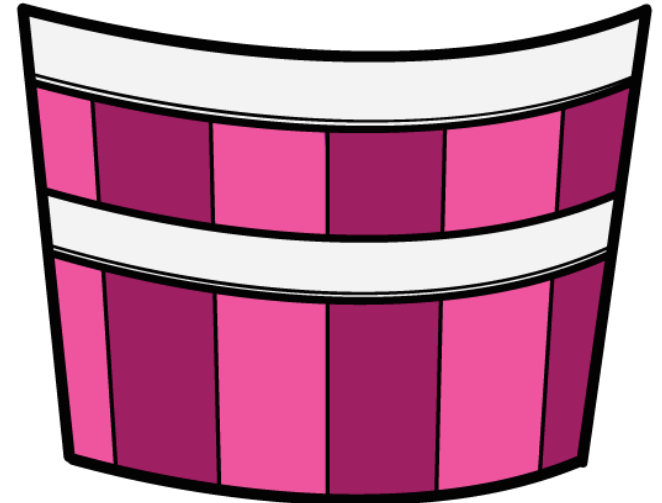
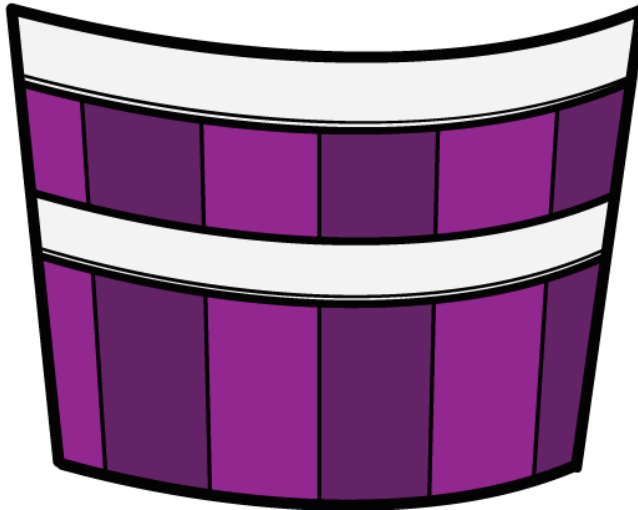
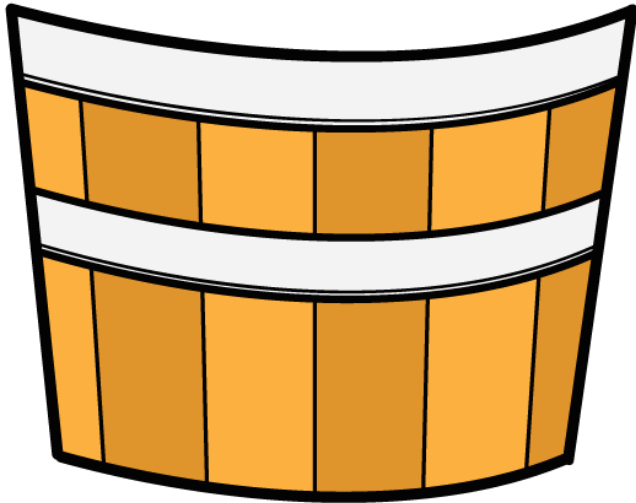
- I love using barrier games in language intervention. I discovered them back in the 1990's and have built tons of them ever since, constantly trying to keep them fun and fresh for my students.
- This one is complements of the Creative Art Teacher at TPT, who posted this free clip art to use.
- Barrier games can be fun in pairs, small groups, or even whole classes. They have been used for decades as a fun way to build both listening and speaking skills. Having a pair of students take turns giving and following directions develops concise directing and describing skills in a fun activity. Students learn to listen carefully, and the therapist/teacher is able to focus on scaffolding and teaching such skills as chunking and re-auditorization without having to simultaneously be giving the auditory input.
- This particular activity can be kept simple for younger students, by having them simply take turns building and describing single cupcakes to each other.
- Or make it more fun for older or more competent communicators by using the scenes provided.
- Print out 2 copies of all pages and laminate them. Cut the picture stimuli apart, being careful to keep the two sets separate. Sit students opposite each other and give each a copy of the same scene. Create a visual barrier between them. Give them each a copy of the same pictures to use (you can use them all or only choose some to make it a little more simple). Have one student choose a small picture, place it on the scene and then give the other student directions to do the same on his side. Continue for as long as you'd like. When finished, remove the barrier and have the students compare their two scenes. Are they the same? If you have kept track of errors as they happen, you can review them now. Then change roles, so each student gets a turn to give and follow directions. If you have to have more than 2 students play at 1 time, have them work in pairs. Or, keep the turns shorter, so that everyone has a chance.
- Yes, the pieces can be a pain in the neck to cut out. But, once you've done it (after laminating the pages), you have it to use over and over again, year after year!

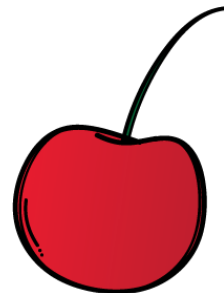
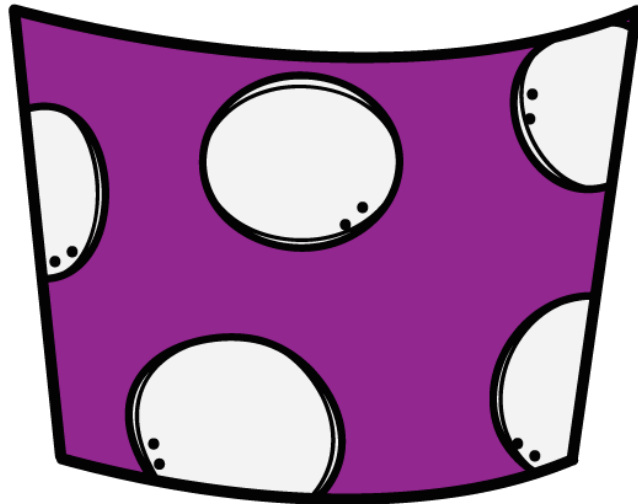
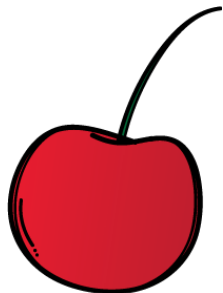
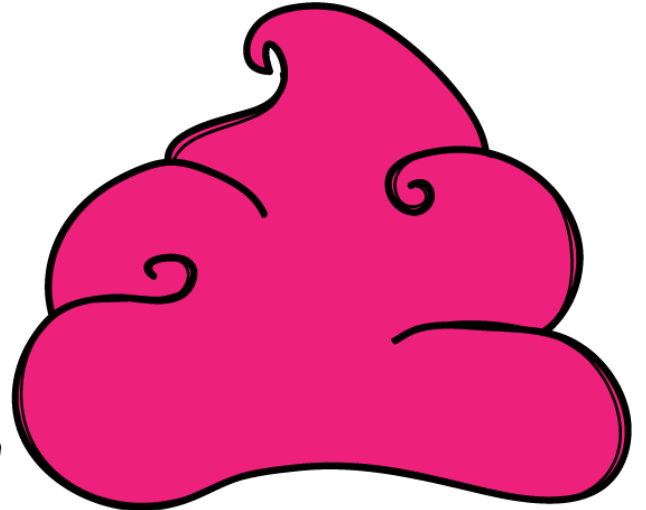
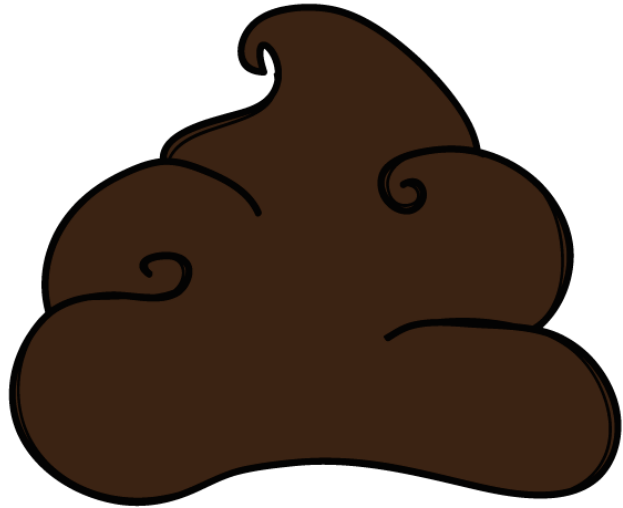
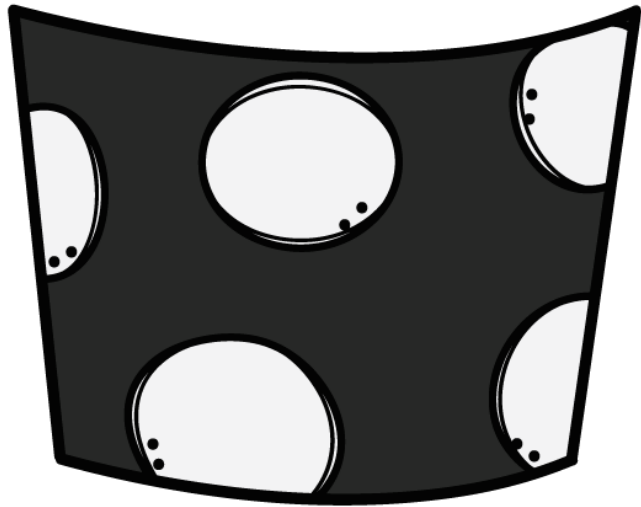
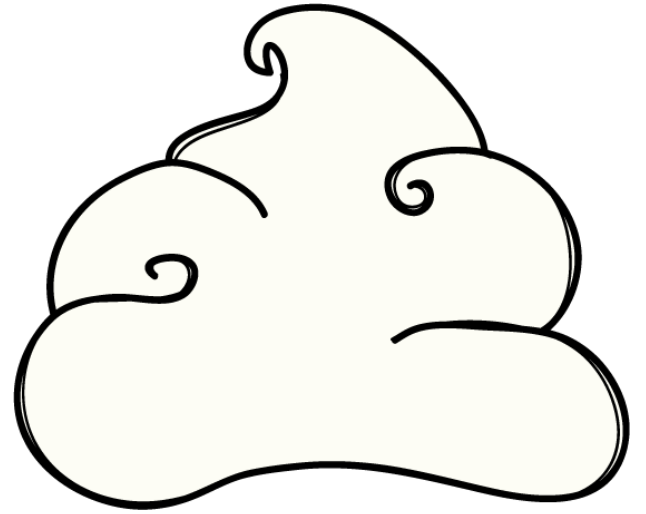
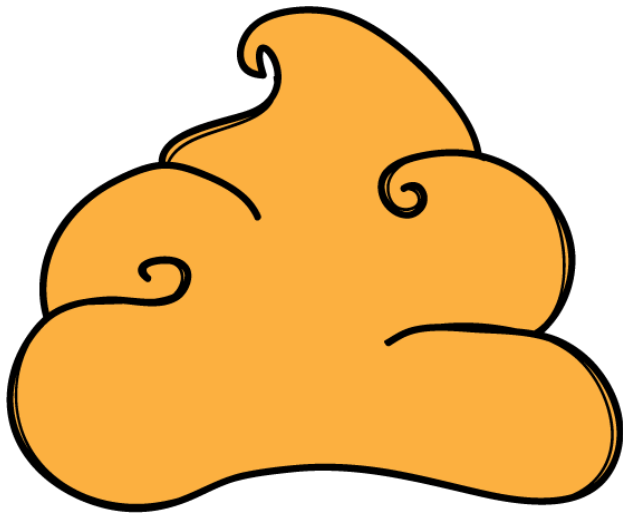
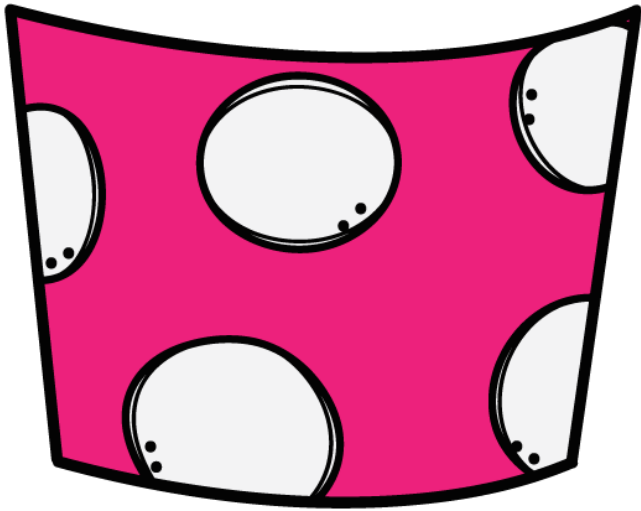
- There are 8 large cupcake bottoms, 5 icing toppings and 2 cherries to put on top.
- There are also 8 smaller cupcake bottoms, with 4 icing toppings and 2 cherries and 5 plates, along with...
- 5 birthday hats, for the 5 students you get.
- There are 2 background scenes; one a table and one a person at the table.



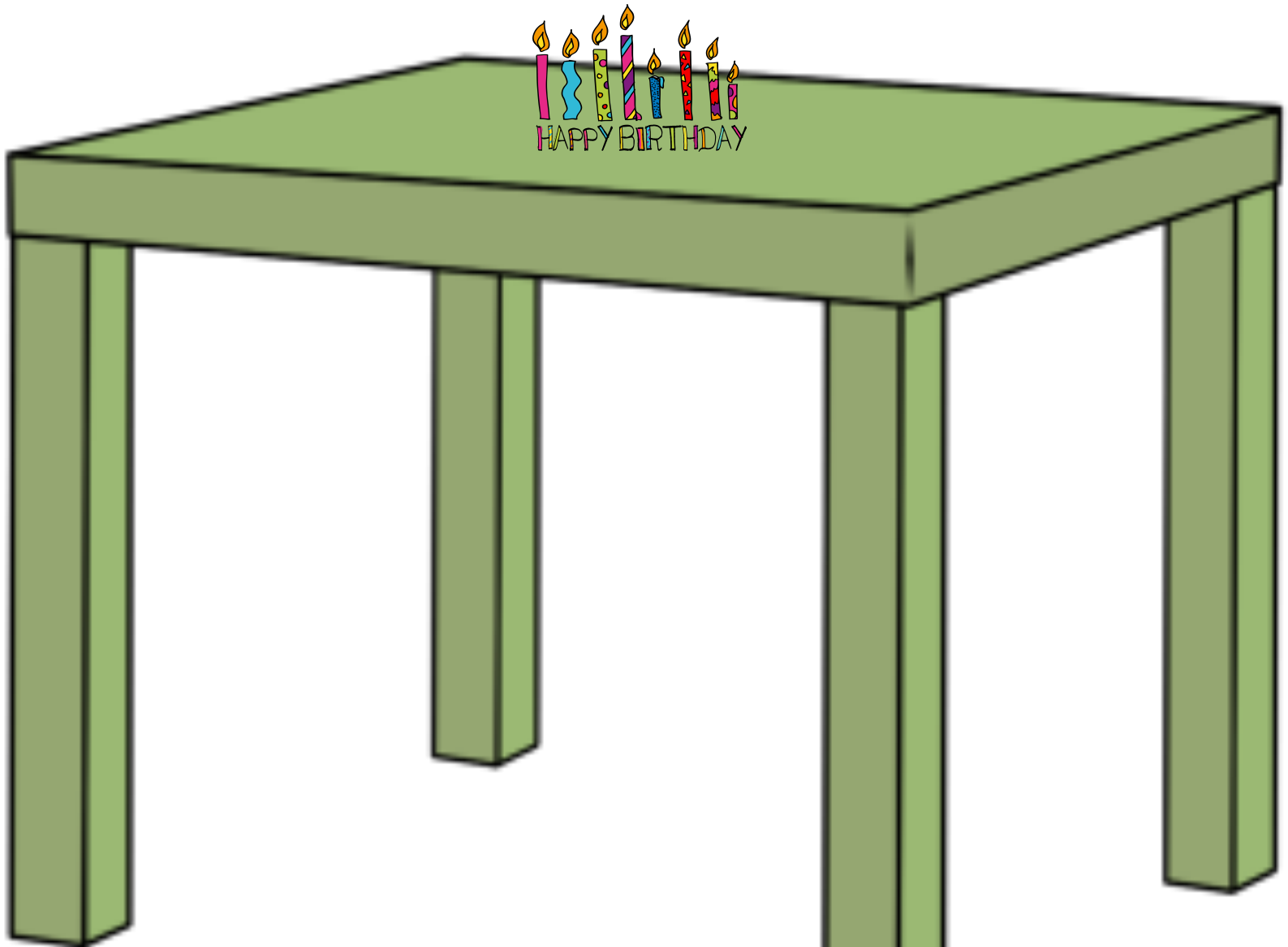
Build a Cupcake barrier activity

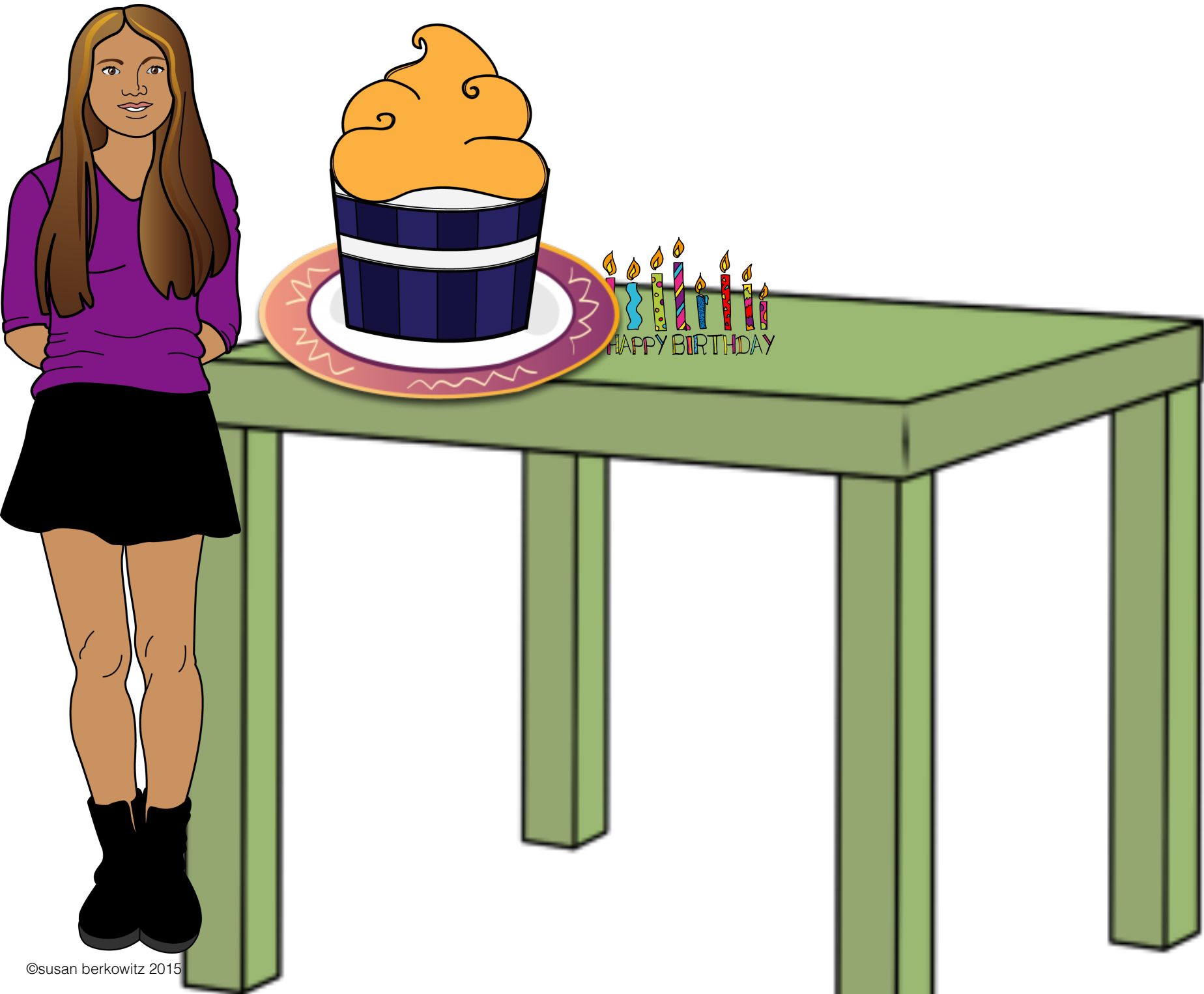
Give each student, or group, a copy of the cupcake parts. Put a barrier between them so that they cannot see each other's papers or desks. One side begins by giving directions and descriptions to the other person, who follows the directions in order to create the same cupcake. Then the sides switch roles.

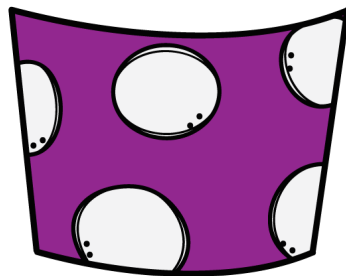
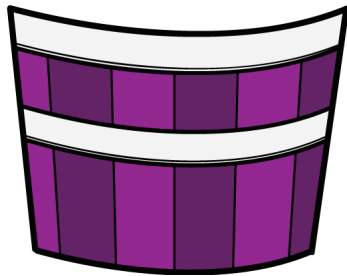
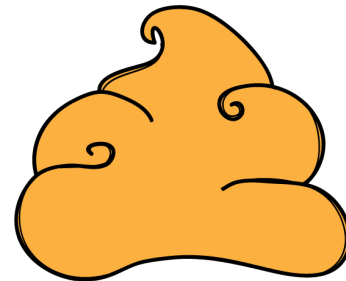
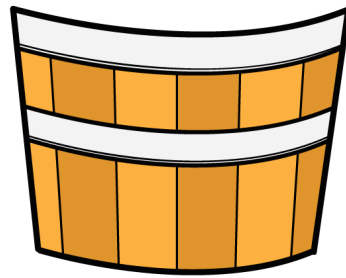
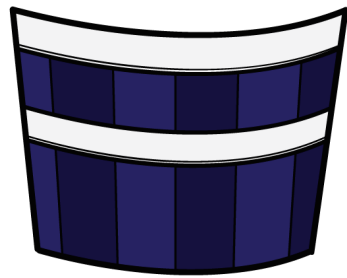
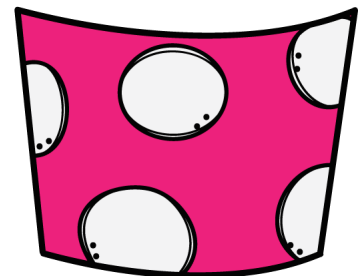
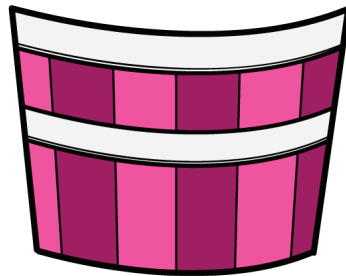
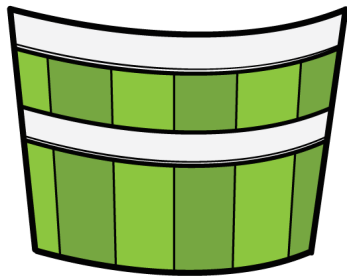
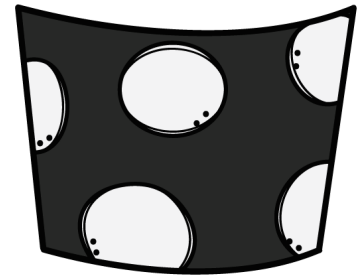


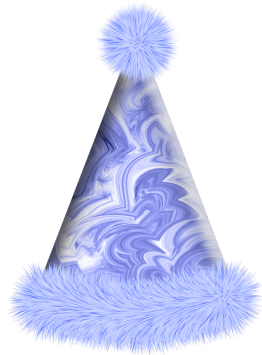
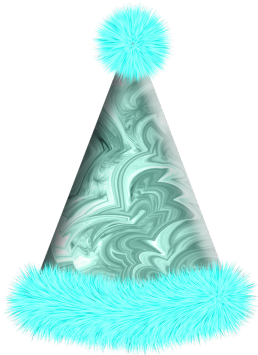
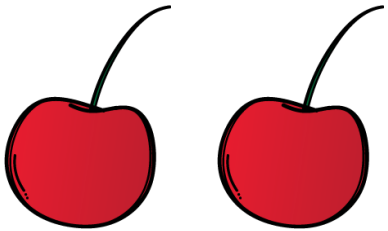
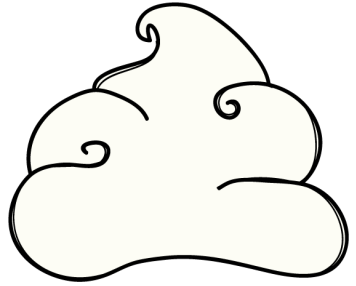
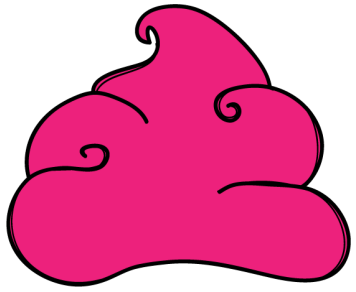


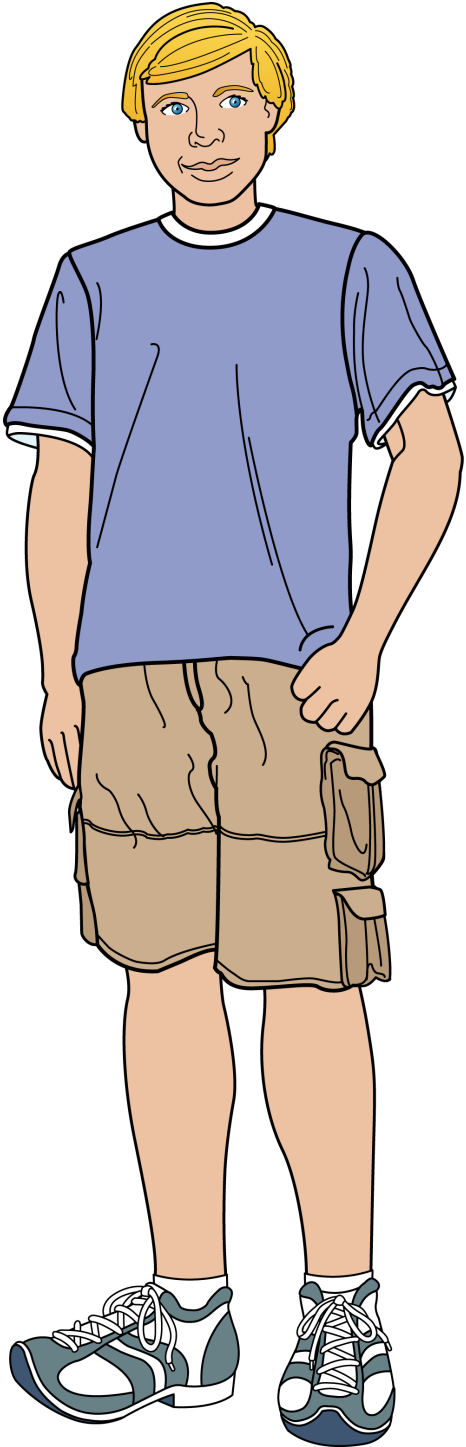
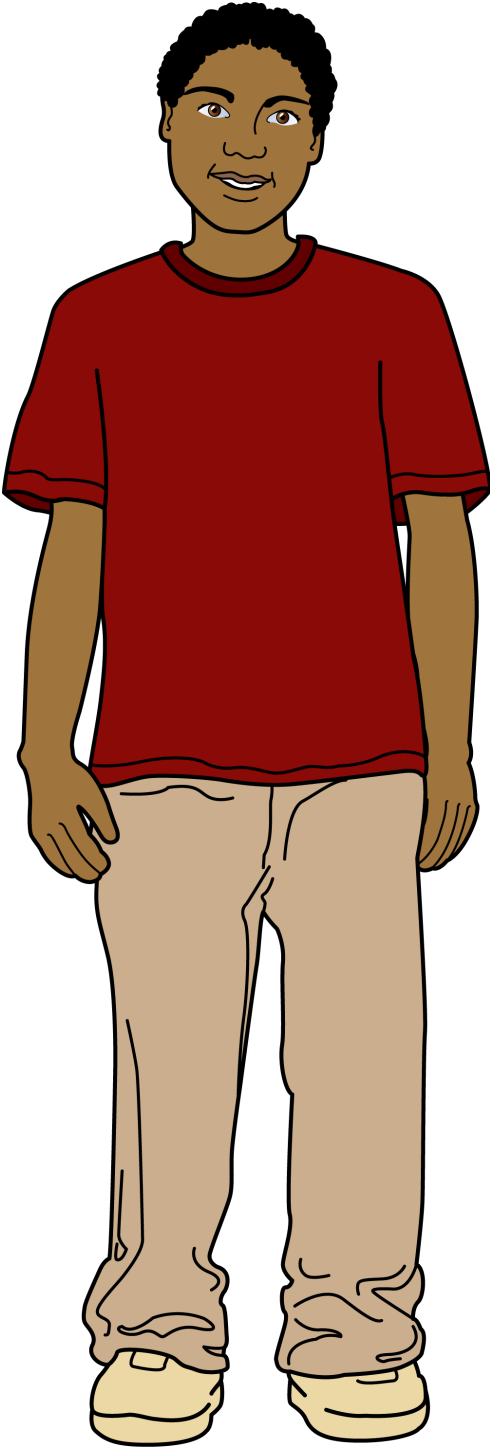


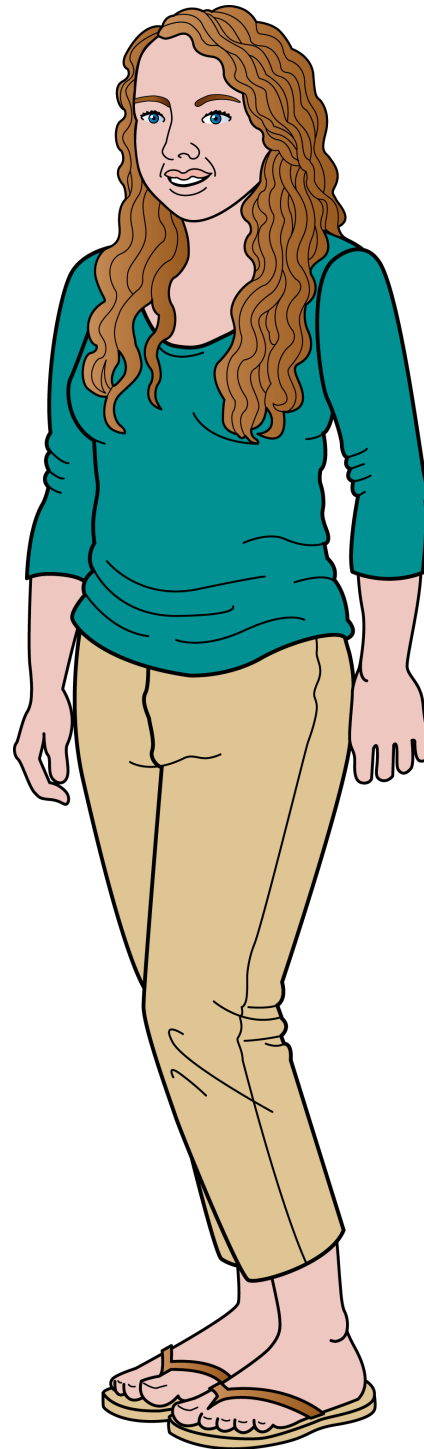
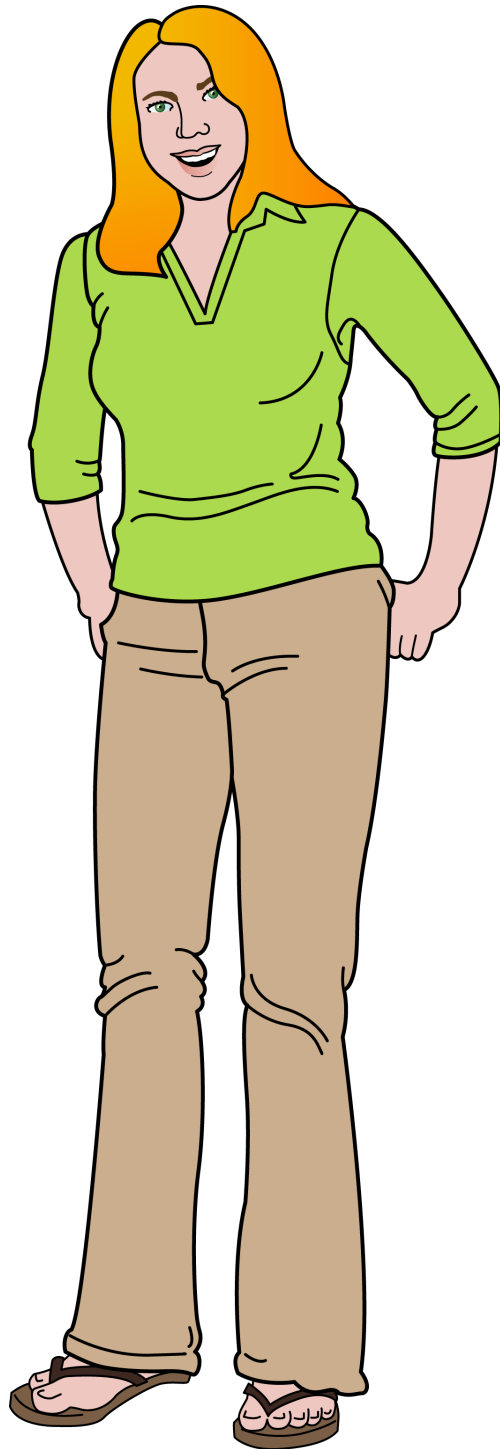
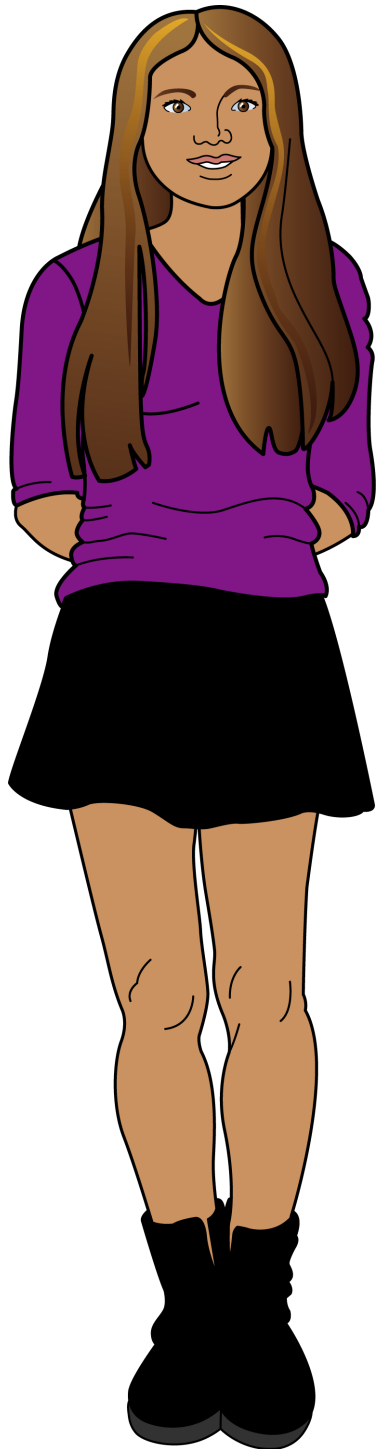








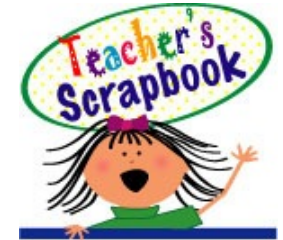






I have been a speech-language pathologist for more than 40 years. While I work mostly with kids and adults with Autism, CP, and other developmental disabilities, I also spent 8 years in the language-based classrooms in a school district. I have worked in public and non-public schools, residential settings, and nonprofit community agencies. I have written for peer-reviewed professional journals and presented at international conferences.

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