

Make a Paper-Plate Fish

Cut and decorate a paper plate to create a colorful fish, then invent an underwater world for it to explore.

Helps Your Child Grow



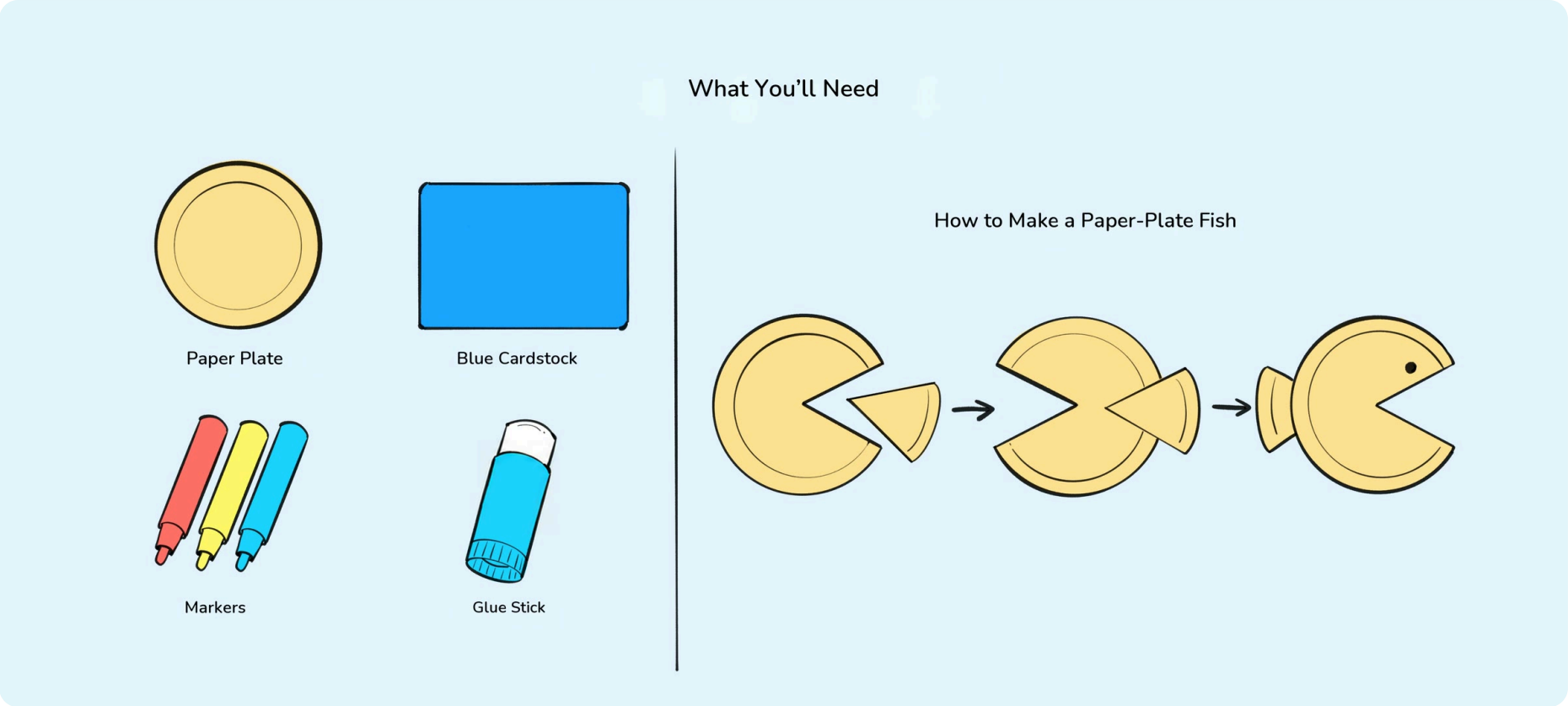
Fine Motor

Cutting, gluing, and drawing while making a paper-plate fish gives your child practice coordinating both hands and controlling several craft tools.



Creativity

Designing the fish's pattern and inventing an underwater story turns your child's ideas into a visible creation they can discuss and extend.



What You'll Need

1. Paper plate
2. large sheet of blue construction paper
3. markers or crayons
4. glue stick



Invite a Fish into the Ocean

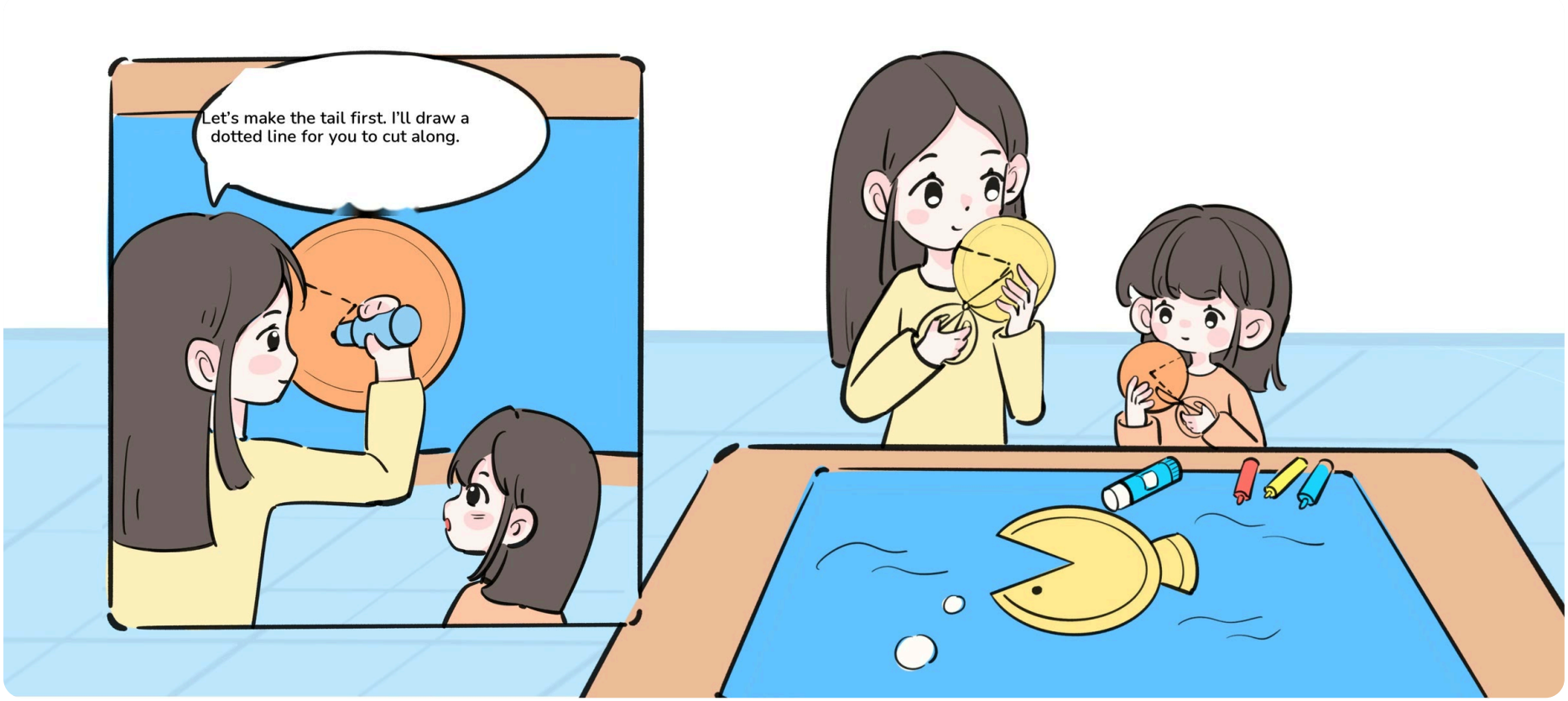
Begin with a theme your child enjoys, such as the ocean. Prepare one paper-plate fish and attach it to blue paper as a model, then invite your child to make another fish for the same underwater scene.

Observations

- ○ Shows interest in your finished fish and wants to make one too
- ○ Chooses a paper plate in a color they like

Tips

- Invent a simple underwater story around the craft, or draw on a familiar ocean story, to give your child a playful reason to join in.
- Offer paper plates in several colors and let your child choose one. Choosing the material can strengthen their interest in making the fish.



Cut Out the Tail

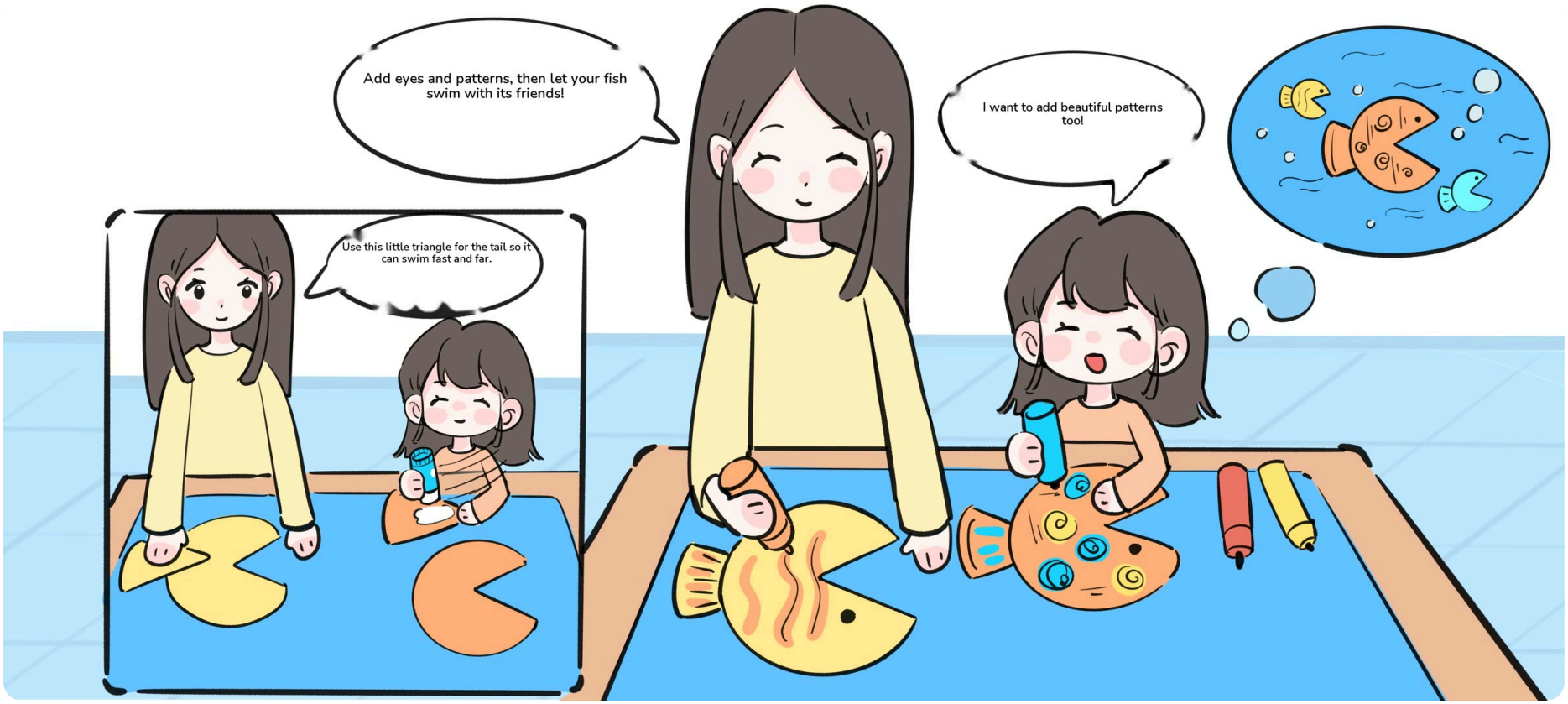
Make one fish beside your child so they can watch each step and try it on their own. Help only with a difficult part - for example, draw a dotted tail line, then let your child cut along it.

Observations

- ◯ Cuts the paper plate along the dotted line
- ◯ Stays focused while following the fish-making steps

Tips

- Move slowly through each step and watch where your child is in the process so they can follow at their own pace.
- Your child's fish does not need to match yours or have perfectly neat edges. Let them control the scissors rather than taking over to trim the plate.



Decorate the Fish

When each fish has its shape, add decorations. Talk while you draw and invite your child to use favorite colors and patterns - circles, hearts, or lightning bolts. Attach the fish to the blue paper and imagine them swimming through the ocean.

Observations

- ○ Uses imagination to draw different patterns on the pretend fish
- ○ Uses craft tools such as a glue stick and marker

Tips

- If your child is out of ideas, let them study your fish and borrow a pattern to get started.
- Talk as you decorate: “Why did you put that pattern there?” or “What color does your fish like?”
- Once the fish are in the “ocean,” continue the story: “Where did they swim?” or “Who did they meet?”