



SM37



10-15 minutes

FOX AND RABBITS



To develop the concept of dimensions - width of an object
To develop the ability to compare sizes (widths) by superimposition
To develop the ability to estimate size (width) visually



❖ The fox



❖ Three houses with the rabbits in



❖ Five doors with different widths



❖ A selection of 3-5 different-sized empty jars with matching lids



Lay out the houses and tell your child this story to set the scene:

Once upon a time there were three rabbits that lived next door to each other. They had all built similar houses, but their doors were all of different sizes. Some of them were wide, some of them were very wide and some of them were narrow. Every evening the rabbits came out to play together but they always left their doors open. They knew that, living nearby, was a fox that longed to catch a juicy, tender rabbit for his supper (put the fox out to the left of the houses). The rabbits kept their doors open and stayed near to their houses so that they could run inside and close the doors tight if the fox appeared. However the doors were getting worn from being slammed shut so often. So the rabbits sent for a carpenter to make some brand new doors. He made many doors, and when he had finished he went home in a hurry because it was late and he was tired. Look, here are all the doors.

Lay out the doors, and encourage your child to look at them carefully. Show them how to superimpose each door on the other doors to compare their widths. Then continue the story:

But, oh dear, all the doors are mixed up! The rabbits don't know which door fits which house, and soon the fox will be hunting for food again. The doors have to fit exactly. If the door is too narrow it will not fit tightly and the fox will easily see the rabbit, slip inside and catch its dinner. If the door is too wide, there will be a bit jutting out, the fox will be able to push it aside with his nose and get in to eat the rabbit. It's very worrying - the poor rabbits are not safe. Can you save them?

Give your child the three houses and the five doors. Remind them that the doors must fit exactly with nothing jutting out and no spaces to be seen. Tell them that since the doors are heavy, they should look carefully at the widths and only pick up the one that they think will really fit - otherwise they will get tired quickly (this is so that they don't find the door by trial and error) When your child has 'shut the doors' (by putting the correct door in its place), bring the fox to look for the rabbits and to leave again annoyed!



Play 'Find the Lid': Lay out the jars and their lids, all mixed up, and give your child one jar. Ask if they can find the matching lid by running their fingers around the rim, and then choose the correct lid only by looking at it with their eyes (not by trial and error). When they have made a choice, ask them to try and screw the lid on to see if they were right. Unscrew the lid again, mix up the jars and lids, choose a different jar and repeat the process.

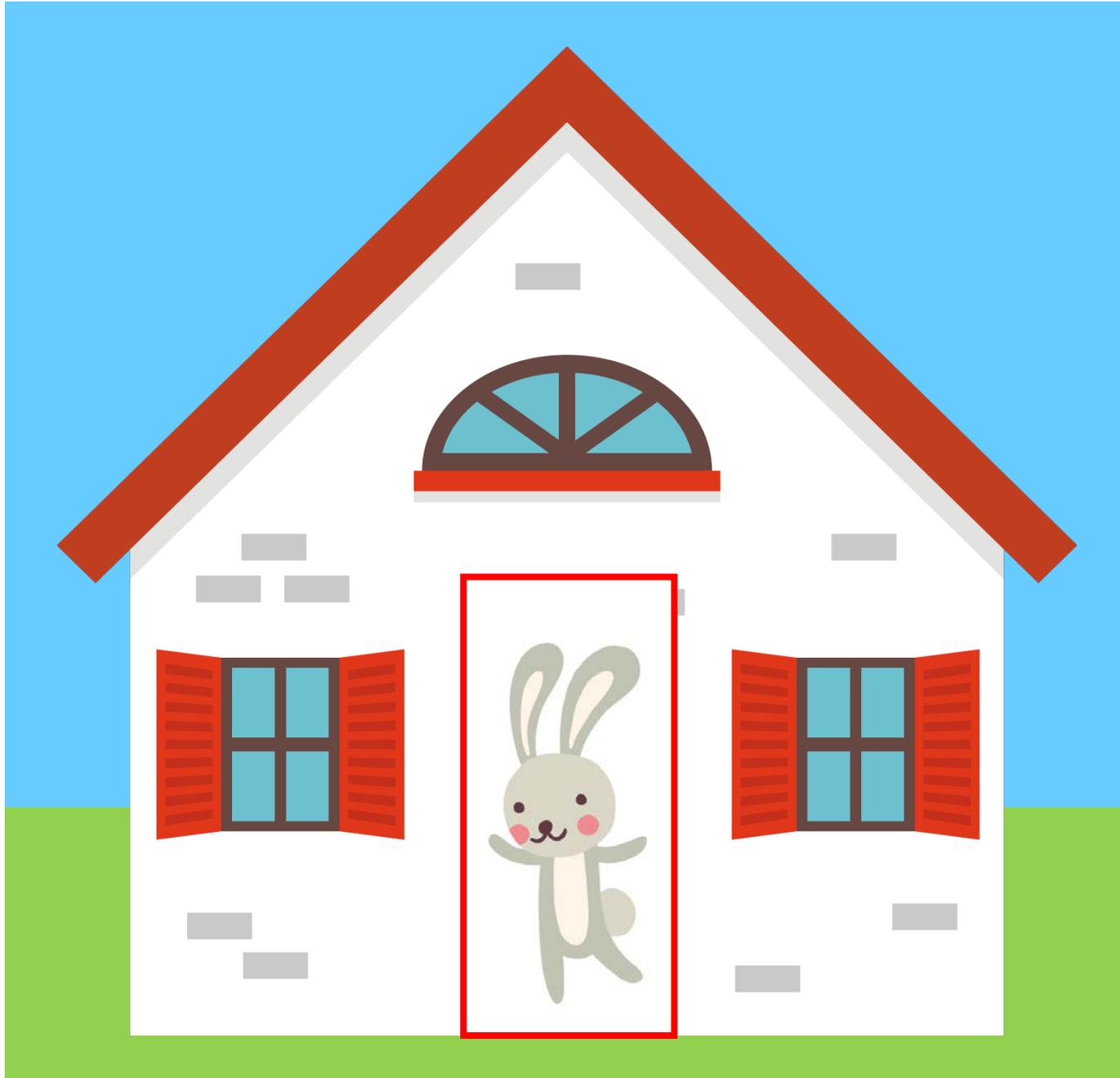


Your child can match the doors to the houses correctly.
Your child can match lids and jars by sight.

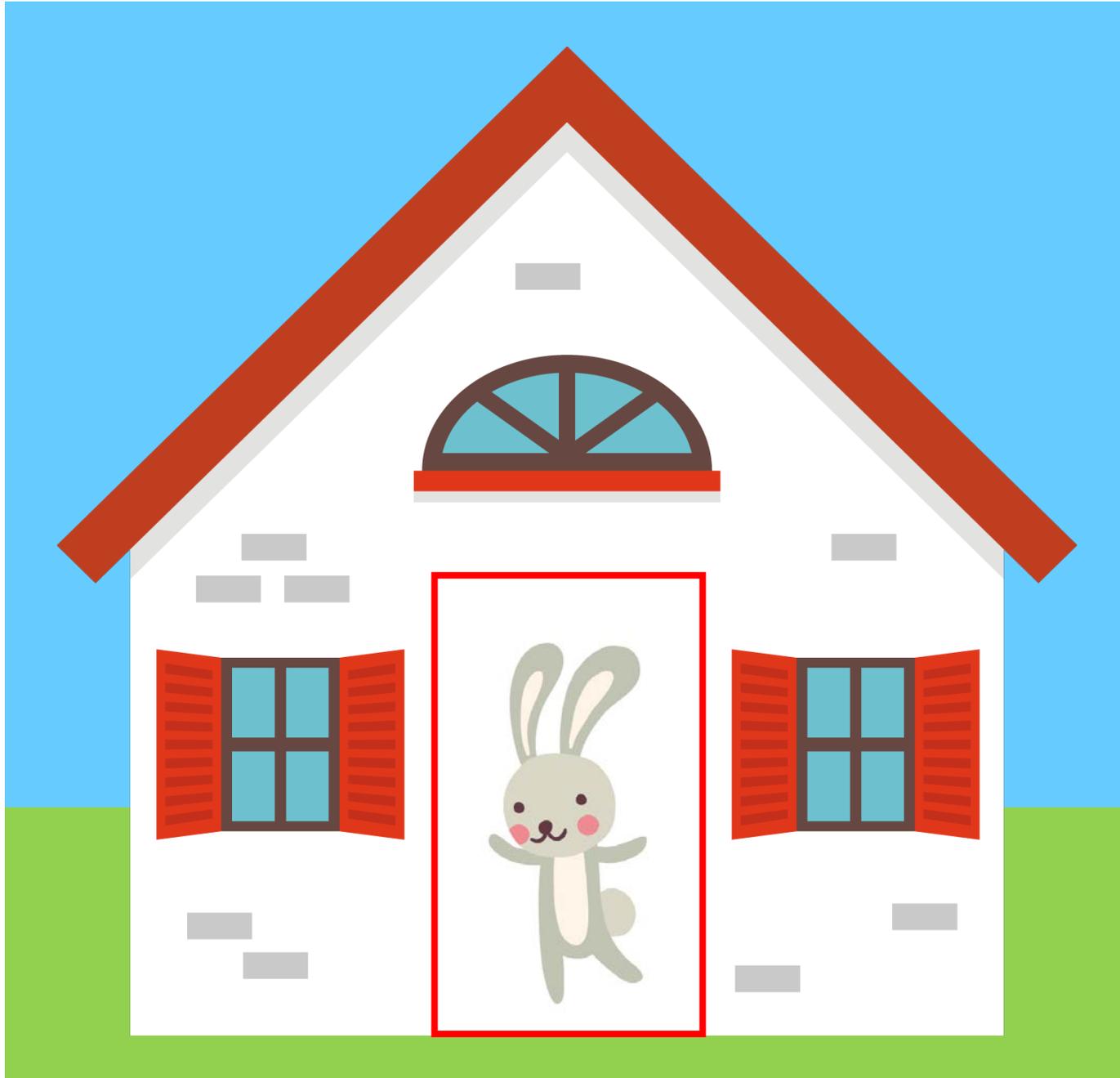


KEY TO LEARNING
@HOME

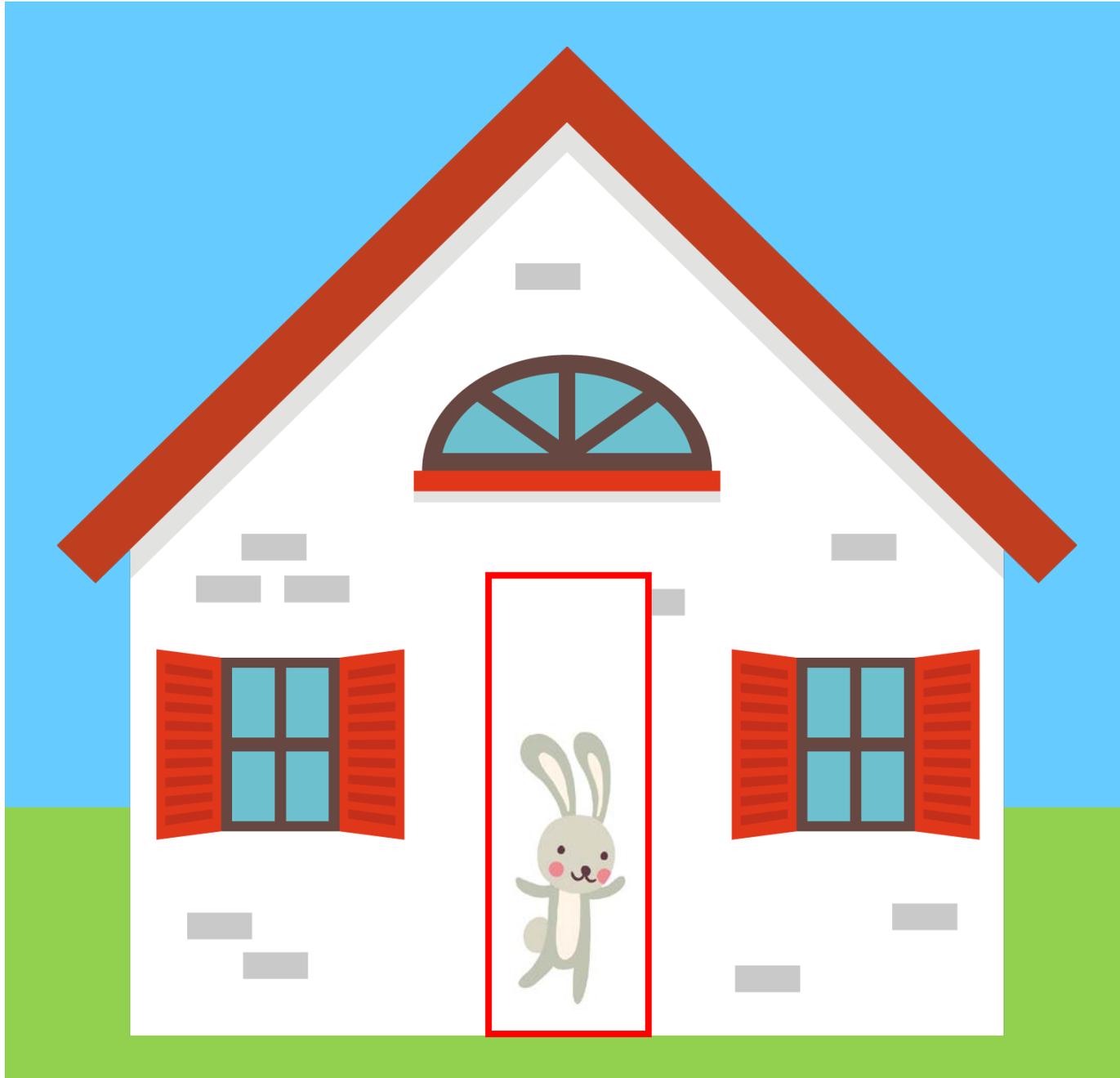
Cut out the house picture.



Cut out the house picture.



Cut out the house picture.



Cut out each red rectangle separately - without any white showing at all.

Cut out the fox picture.

