Scrappy Little Windows

Little Windows Supplies:
- Resin, mixing cup, wand
- Special photo paper
- Squares mold (or other)

For pendants:
- Mini drill (or Dremel)
- Accent pins
- Chains of your choice

For magnets:
- Super-magnets

From home:
- Photoshop / other graphics program
- digital photos, computer & printer
- scissors
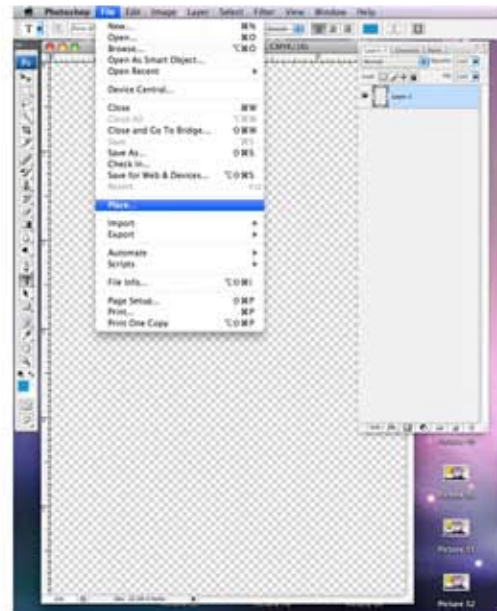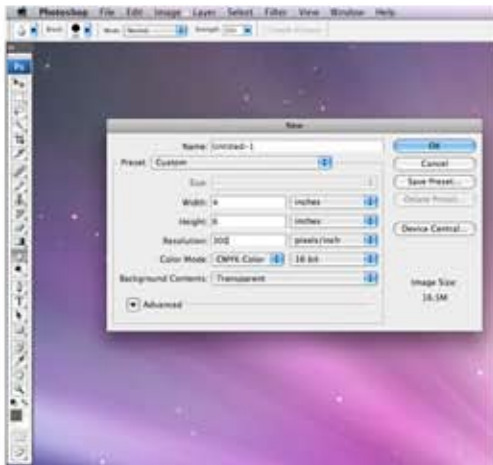- paper towels

For pendants:
- small pointed pliers w/wire cutter

For magnets:
- super glue

This guide is a mini-tutorial in Adobe Photoshop, but you can apply the steps to other digital editing programs a well. For those of you who don't have much (or any) experience using Photoshop, this will be a great way to get started. For those who are already familiar with Photoshop, please bear with me through the baby steps, and if you have any ideas for simplifying the process, email me!

Step1: Open Photoshop, open a new file, Set the size to 4 x 6", the resolution to 300 pixels/inch, and the color mode to CMYK - recommended when you're going to print out your final file.

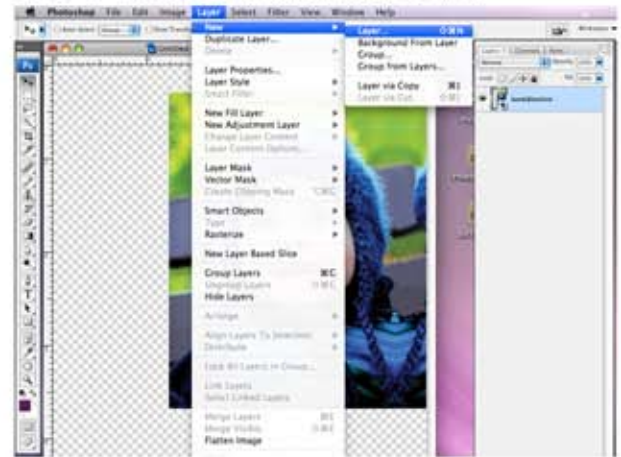Step 2: Under the File menu, select "Place" to add the photo you want to use to your file.

Step3: When your image appears, hold down the Shift key while you drag the corner of the image to shrink or enlarge it, then move it into position. When it's right, hit Enter to place it.

Adding Graphic Elements - you can either find graphics you like online, use something from Photoshop, or create your own, as I've done.
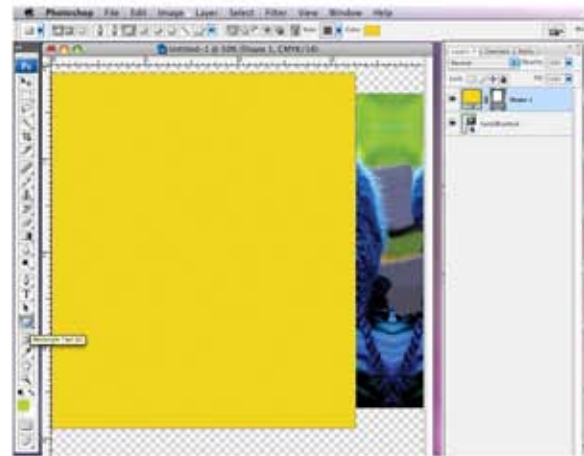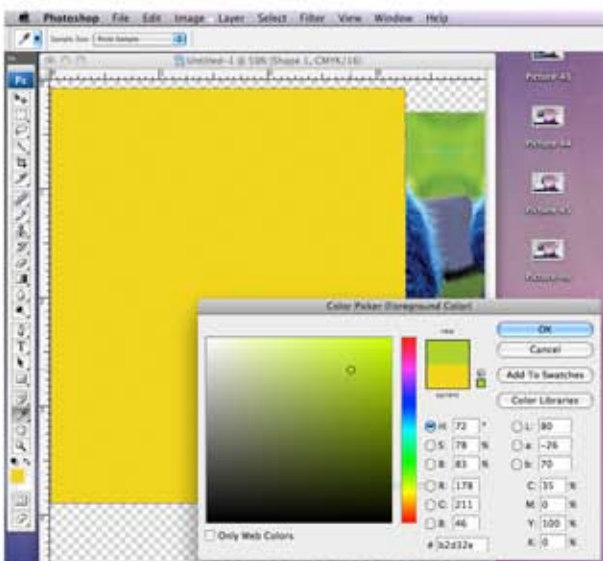
Step 4: Add a new layer to your file.

Step 5: Select a color for the base color, I like to pick a color that is in or compliments something in the photo, in this case a sunny yellow.
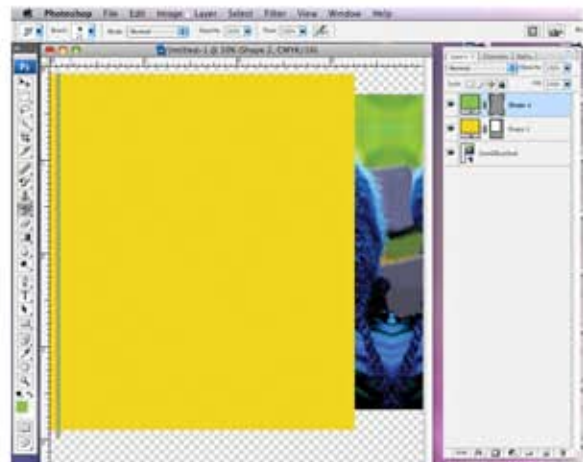

Step 6: Select the rectangle drawing tool and draw a box that will cover the area where you want graphics.
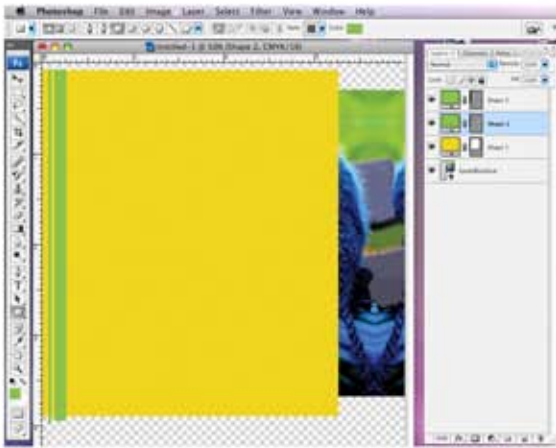

Step 7: Add another new layer for green stripes, or whatever you feel like adding.
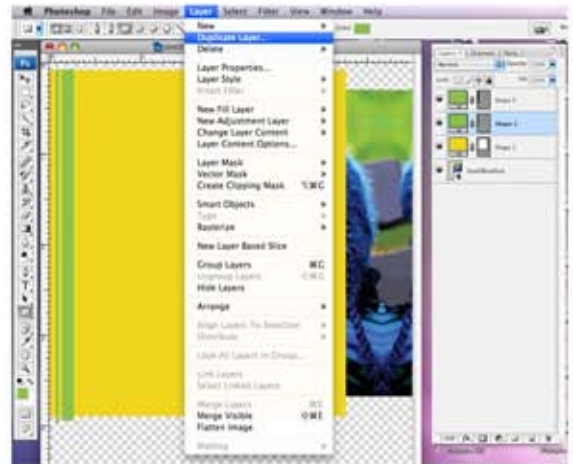

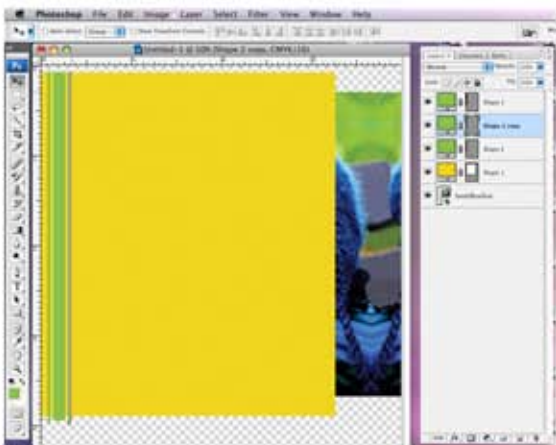Step 8: Using the rectangle tool again, create a thin green stripe.

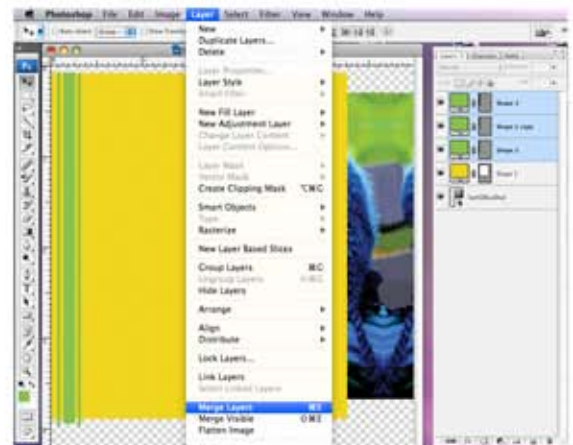**Step 9:** Add a thicker stripe the same way you did the first one.

Step 10: Select the layer of the thin stripe, and duplicate that layer.
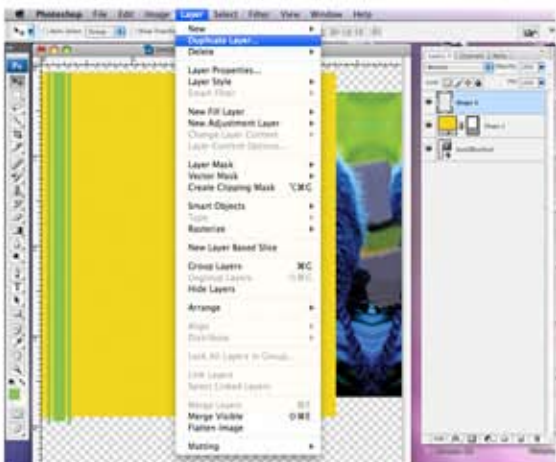

Step 11: Move that second thin stripe into position, to the right of the thick one.
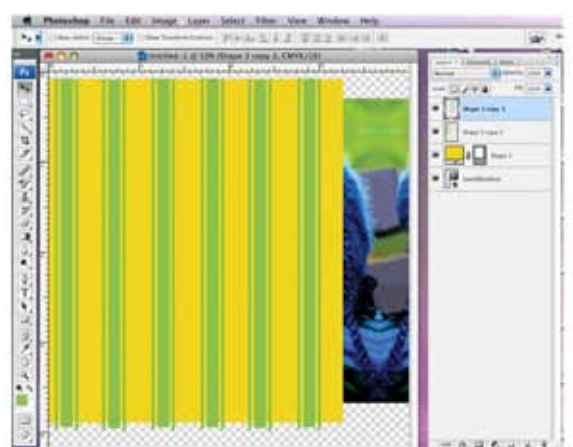

Step 12: Select one of the stripe layers, and hold down the Command key while you select the other 2 stripe layers. Then Merge Layers. This makes them behave as a single layer,

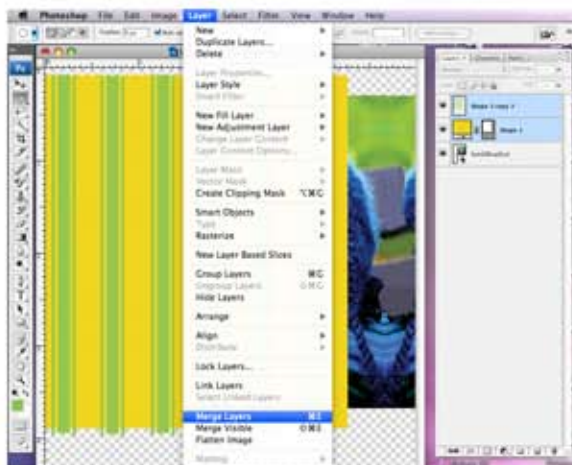**Step 13:** Duplicate that merged layer, then move that new stripe grouping to the right.

Step 14: Continue until you've added enough to fill across the yellow box.
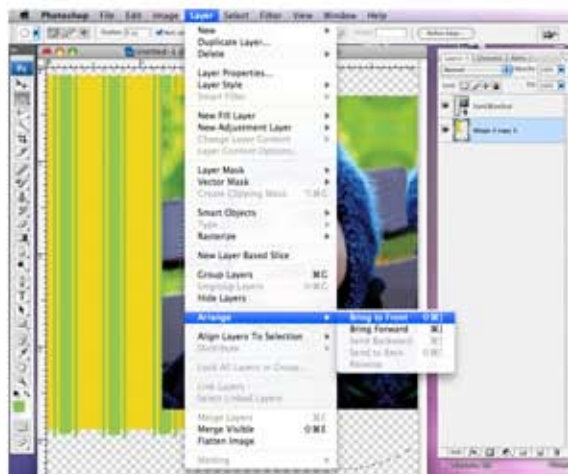
Change Background Shape

Step 15: Merge the two graphic layers.

Step 16: Bring your picture layer to the front so you can see what you'd like to include.

Step 17: Select Oval Cropping Tool from tool menu by holding down your mouse button over the dashed rectangle shape. Draw an oval shape to size.

Step 18: Select the graphics layer, and hit Delete to remove the part which is inside of the oval shape.

Step 19: Move your photo layer to the back.

Adding Type

Step 20: Before adding type, you'll want to crop your file into its final square shape. Using the rectangle cropping tool, hold down the Shift key while you make a box, to keep it square.
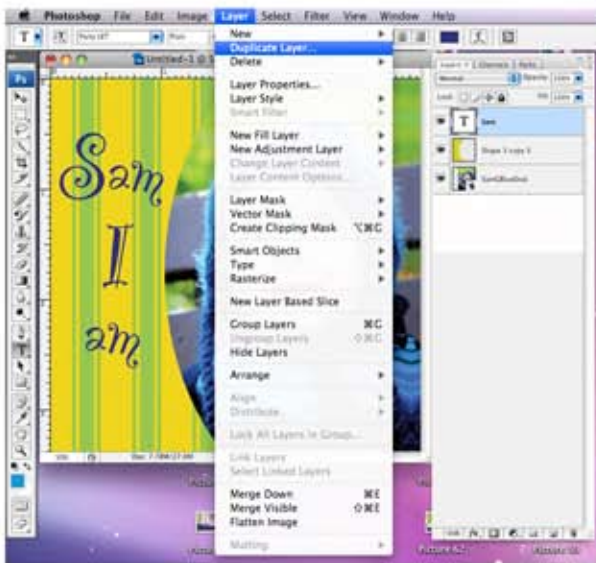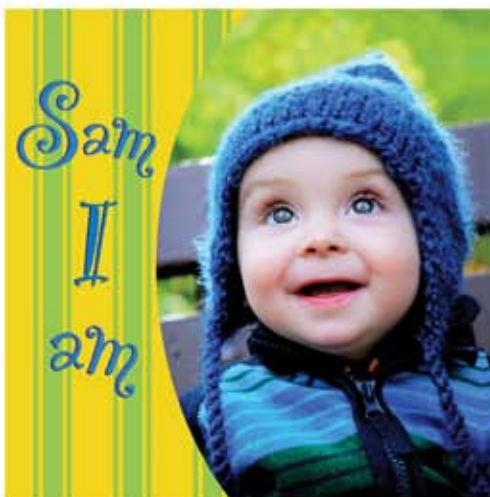
Step 21: Crop your image (will crop all layers)

Step 22: There will be 2 layers of type, The first one will act as a dropshadow to emhphasize your words. Create a new layer for your type. Select a font, a type size, and font color, picking something to accent your photo.

Step 23: Enter your type, then duplicate that layer to create the main, top type.

Step 24: Select the top type layer, usually called "copy", and change the color of the type to a lighter version of the one below.
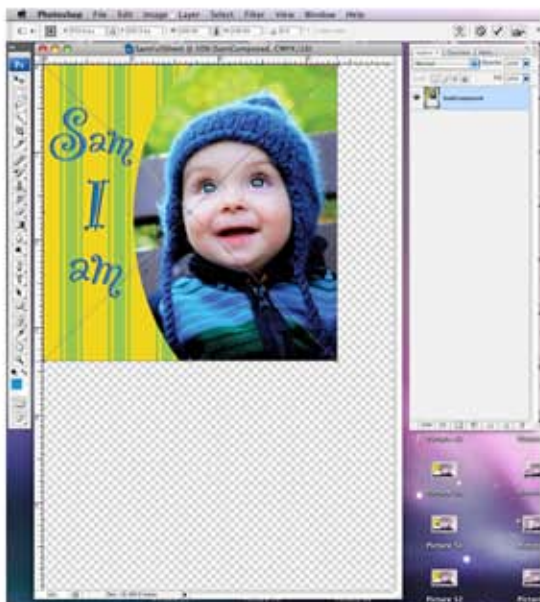

Step 25: Save your file!

Here's how your final file will look. For each one, you'll select details, backgrounds, fonts and colors to highlight your own photo - each will be unique and fabulous!
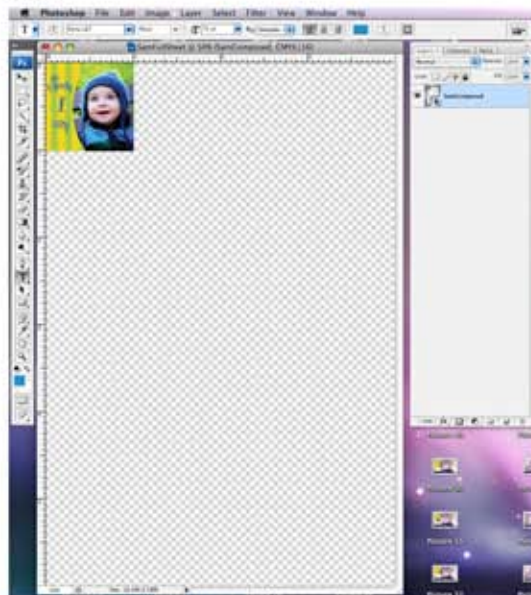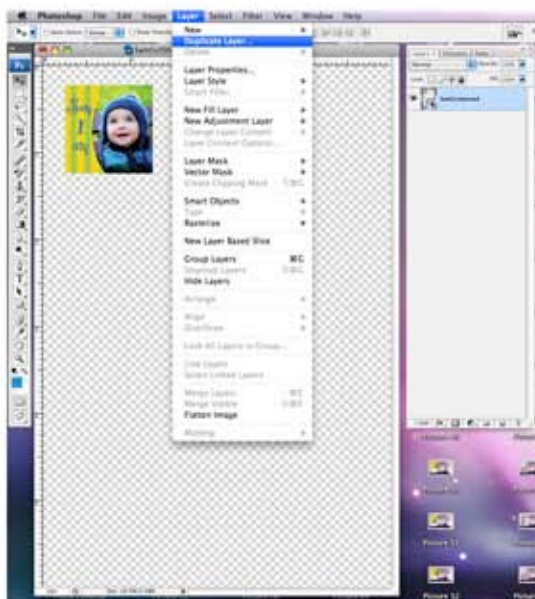
And now you're ready to print.

Print Prep

Step 28: Open a new file, with the same settings as your first one. Under the File menu, Place the image you just created. Move it up to the top left corner for resizing.
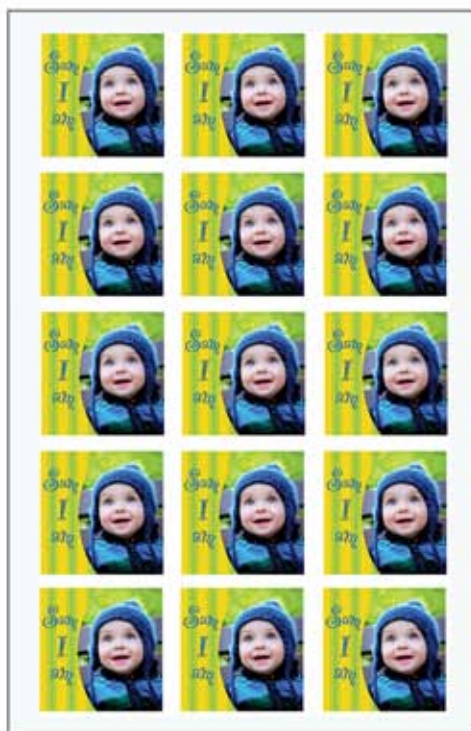

Step 29: Hold down the Shift key and drag the bottom right corner of your image up and left until the image measures 1" x 1", so it will fit into the bottom of the squares mold.

Step 30: Move the image down and right by 1/4" to allow for printing margins. Under the Layer Menu, duplicate this image and move it over to the right. Repeat this until you've filled the page, or add other images to get the most out of each sheet of special Little Windows Photo Paper.
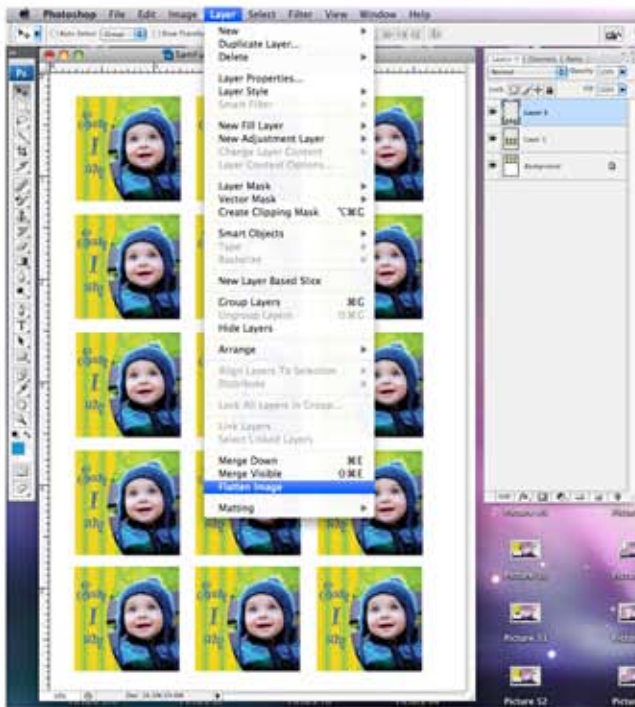

Step 31: You'll be able to fit 15 of these 1" images onto one 4 x 6" sheet of paper, or a variety of different shapes and sizes.
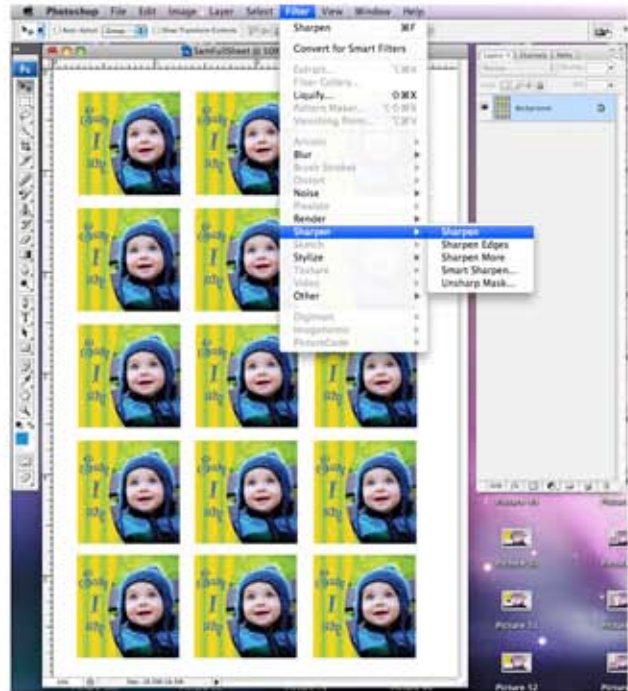
Here's a Photoshop trick to increase clarity and resolution of your final file to get the best print:

A) Under the Layer menu, select Flatten Image. This will combine all of the layers together so that you can adjust them together at once.

B) Under the Filter menu, select Sharpen. You'll see that this further defines details in your images. Don't worry if it creates white specs in the highlight areas - see how it prints.

Printing

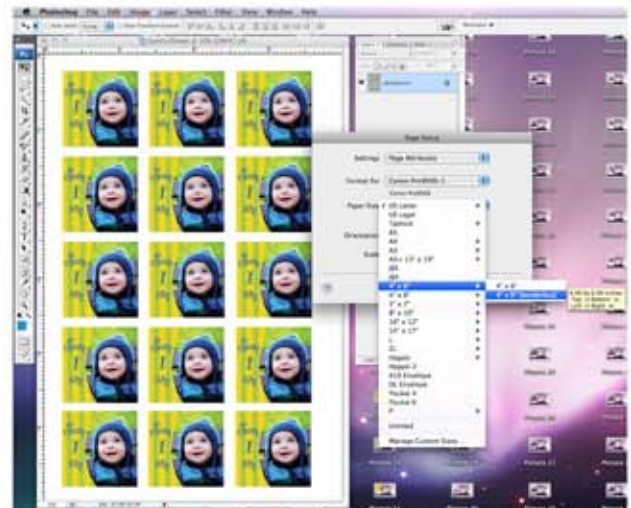Under the Page Setup menu, choose the printer you want to use.

Set the Paper Size to 4" x 6" Borderless. If your printer only allows 4" x 6", select that setting.

Under File, select Print. If necessary, reselect your printer, set the quality of the paper and resolution as high as possible.

If your printer allowed 4 x 6" Borderless, click "Scale to fit", and you'll see your file resized. If not, select Scale to 34%.

Load Special Little Windows Photo Paper and print.
Follow directions from your Kit or Supplies to make Little Windows.

If you don't have your instructions handy, you can print a copy from our blog under "Doming Technique"at

www.little-windows.com/blog