

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Letter knowledge

DESCRIPTION

Children will play a matching game with the uppercase and lowercase letter cards in an imaginary pool.

TARGETED SKILL(S):

- Recognize and identify lowercase letters.
- Match lowercase letters with their corresponding uppercase letters.

**SUITABLE FOR**

Whole groups or small groups

**PREP-TIME**

10 min.

**DURATION OF ACTIVITY**

15 min.

**MATERIALS**

We provide: 'Uppercase Letter Cards'; 'Lowercase Letter Cards'

You find: Scissors; A long piece of string or rope

PREPARATION

1. Print and cut out one copy each of the 'Uppercase Letter Cards' and 'Lowercase Letter Cards'.
2. Create a "pool" by forming a large circle with your string or rope.
3. Scatter the 'Uppercase Letter Cards' face down in the pool.
4. Shuffle the 'Lowercase Letter Cards' and arrange them in a deck, face down outside of the pool area.

What will we learn?

"Today we're going to swim in an imaginary pool to match lowercase and uppercase letters!"

What do we know?

1. "There are two ways to write a letter. Does anyone know what they are? Let's use the letter 'b' as an example. Yes, there is a lowercase 'b' and an uppercase 'B.'" Write both letters on the board, side-by-side.
2. "How about another letter? Is there a lowercase and an uppercase 'n'? Yes!" Write 'n' and 'N' on the board.
3. "Hmmm... how about 'j'? And 'r'? Yes! All 26 letters of the alphabet have a lowercase and uppercase form!"
4. "Let's see if we can match the lowercase and uppercase forms of the letters."

Watch me first!

1. "I'm going to show you how to play this letter-matching game."
2. "I'll start by drawing a letter from this deck of 'Lowercase Letter Cards'. It's a 'w'. Hmmm... I'm thinking about what the uppercase 'W' looks like. I remember it looks a lot like the lowercase one, but it's taller."
3. "Let me jump into this pool of letters and see if I can find the uppercase 'W'. Jump inside the roped-off area and pretend to swim around, turning over letters until you find the one you need. For example, if you turn over an 'N', you might say: "Hmmm, this sort of looks like an uppercase 'W' but it's not quite it. I'm going to keep swimming and looking." Continue until you find the 'W'.
4. "I've found it; I found the uppercase 'W'! Now I'm going to jump out of the pool with my matching letters and sit down."

Let's try it!

1. "Now it's your turn! I'm going to hand lowercase letters to a few of you to find their matches in the pool. Once they're done, I'll pass out a few more letters until everyone has found their matching letter." Hand a lowercase letter to 3-4 students at a time.
2. When a child has found their letter match, they should jump out of the pool with their letters and sit poolside until everyone is done.

What did we learn?

1. "We found all the matching letters! Good job!"
2. "What did you notice about some of the letters?" (some matches look alike: c/C, s/S, z/Z; while others look different: e/E, g/G, r/R). "Who had similar letters? Who had letters that looked different from each other?"

Let's do more!

- Ask the children to re-sort the letters into lowercase and uppercase categories.

EXTENDING THE LESSON

**Less Challenging**

- Ask the children to work in pairs to find their matching letter.
- Use fewer letters, focusing on letters where the lowercase and uppercase forms look alike (e.g., x/X, o/O) to start.

**More Challenging**

- When children find a matching letter, ask them to say a word that begins with that letter.
- Give 2-3 letters for each child to find during each "swim".

**TIPS**

- You may choose to laminate the letter cards so they will last longer and can be used for other activities.
 - This activity can be adapted into a competitive version to see who can find their matching letter(s) first.
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