

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Letter knowledge

DESCRIPTION

Children name letters as they climb a letter mountain with a partner.

TARGETED SKILL(S):

Identify letters a, r, t, n, and e.

**SUITABLE FOR**

Pairs of children

**PREP-TIME**

5 min.

**DURATION OF ACTIVITY**

10-15 min.

**MATERIALS**

- **We provide:** 'Let's Go Climbing Game Board'; 'Let's Go Climbing Blank Game Board' (laminated if possible)
- **You find:** Counters

PREPARATION

1. Print out a copy of the 'Let's Go Climbing Game Board' for each pair of children.
2. Locate counters or tokens, one for each pair of children.

What will we learn?

"Today you're going to climb a letter mountain with a friend!"

What do we know?

1. "What are some of the letters we've learned recently?" Write the letters on the board as the children name them.
2. "Are these uppercase or lowercase letters?" Help the children identify the uppercase and lowercase letters and match them with their counterparts.
3. "That's a lot of letters! Today, we'll be focusing on five letters: 'a', 'r', 't', 'n', and 'e.'" Write these letters in uppercase and lowercase on the board.

Watch me first!

1. "I'll be using these letters to climb a mountain!" Show a 'Let's Go Climbing Game Board'. "I'll start at the bottom and work my way up to the flag at the top."
2. "I won't be alone though. I will have a partner to help me." Choose a child to come up and help you.
3. "I will start." Model trying to identify the first letter on the trail at the bottom of the mountain on the 'Let's Go Climbing Game Board'. "Hmm... what is this first letter at the bottom? I think it's an 'A', yes an uppercase 'A.'" Turn to your partner to check your answer. "Yes! I was right! That means I can move our counter to the 'A'."
4. Turn to your partner. "Now it's your turn! What do you think the next letter is?"
5. "Yes, it's an 'r', a lowercase 'r'. Good job!"
6. Continue for a few more letters, taking turns until the children understand how to play the game.

Let's try it!

1. "Now it's your turn to climb the mountain with your partner!"
2. Hand out a 'Let's Go Climbing Game Board' and a counter to each pair of children. Have them choose who will go first.
3. Explain to the children that they are working as partners to get to the top of the letter mountain. If one child is not sure about a letter, the other can help.

What did we learn?

1. "Which letters helped up climb the mountain?"
2. "Did you struggle with any letters? Was your partner able to help you out?"

Let's do more!

Once the children are used to playing the game and know the letters 'a', 'r', 't', 'n', and 'e' well, you may choose to use the 'Let's Go Climbing Blank Game Board' to practice other letters. Print other letters the children have learned in each of the blank spaces.

EXTENDING THE LESSON



Less Challenging

- Have the children work in groups of three.
- If the children have only learned certain letters (or just uppercase or lowercase letters), use the 'Let's Go Climbing Blank Game Board' and print the letters you're working on in the blank spaces.



More Challenging

- Use the 'Let's Go Climbing Blank Game Board' to create more challenging "climbs" with other letters or short words like *at* and *set*.
- Have the children identify the letter's name as well as its sound (phoneme). For an extra challenge, ask the children to also say a word that starts with that phoneme, e.g., "That's a 't', it makes the sound /t/. *Today* is a word that starts with the letter 't'."



TIPS

- Laminating the 'Let's Go Climbing Blank Game Board' and using washable markers will reduce the number of copies you'll need to make.
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