

**LEARNING OBJECTIVE**

Phonological awareness

**DESCRIPTION**

Children will roll balls at 'bowling pins' to see if they can build compound words from the words on the pins.

**TARGETED SKILL(S):**

Combine two words to form a compound word.

**SUITABLE FOR**

Small groups

**PREP-TIME**

20-30 min.

**DURATION OF ACTIVITY**

30-40 min.

**MATERIALS**

- **We provide:** 'Simple Word Picture Cards'; 'Compound Word Picture Cards'
- **You find:** Soft or light-weight balls; Targets (e.g., plastic bowling pins, empty cereal boxes, paper towel rolls, storybooks); Small containers; Tape

**PREPARATION**

1. Plan your groups of children (ideally four children per group).
2. Print and cut out the 'Simple Word Picture Cards' (one set for you and one set for each group).
3. Print and cut out the 'Compound Word Picture Cards' (one set for you and one for each group).
4. Locate the tape, balls (two for each group), targets (ten for each group), and small containers to hold the 'Compound Word Picture Cards' (one for each group).
5. Create 'bowling pins' (i.e., targets) for each group by taping a 'Simple Word Picture Card' onto each target.
6. Set up the balls and bowling pins for each group in the gym, a large room, or an open area of your classroom. Provide ample space between the bowling pins so a ball will only knock down one pin.
7. Add a small container and a set of 'Compound Word Picture Cards' near each group's set-up.

**What will we learn?**

"Today, we're going to try to make bigger words when we put two small words together."

**What do we know?**

1. "Let's talk about some special words called compound words! When we take two smaller words and stick them together, we get one big, brand-new word, which we call a compound word. For example, if we take the words 'rain' and 'bow' and put them together, we get the word... 'rainbow!'"
2. Show children the 'Simple Word Picture Cards'. "These cards have small words on them. They're going to help us make some bigger compound words about clothing. First, let's name all the pictures on these cards."
3. "Let's see which words go together to make bigger clothing words!" Help the children make a few clothing and accessory words with the 'Simple Word Picture Cards' and in the correct order (i.e., 'sun-hat', not 'hat-sun'). Show the corresponding 'Compound Word Picture Card' each time to confirm that they made the word.

**Watch me first!**

1. "We're going to build compound words by playing a bowling game!" Show children the bowling pins and point out that each one has a small word and picture on it. Read the words on the bowling pins. "We'll roll balls at these bowling pins to see if we can create a really big word using two smaller words."
2. Choose three children to help you model the activity. Give the first child one of the balls and explain that now you and the child will each roll a ball so you each knock down a bowling pin at the same time.
3. Ask the other two children to each collect a knocked-down bowling pin. "Let's see if these words make a clothing compound word when we put them together!" Read the two bowling pin words and discuss what to do. For example,

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"We knocked over 'shoe' and 'suit'. Do these two words combine to make a bigger clothing word? Shoe + suit = shoesuit. Is this a clothing item? No. Let's switch the words around. Suit + shoe = suitshoe. Does this make sense? No, this isn't a clothing word either."

4. Set up the bowling pins and ask the two 'bowling pin collectors' to now take a turn rolling the balls to knock down two pins. Work as a group to see if a clothing compound word was made. For example, "Our words now are 'sun' and 'dress'. Let's put them together. Sun + dress = sundress. Is this a clothing compound word? Yes!"
5. Explain that since your group made a compound word, you'll now find the card (i.e., in your 'Compound Word Picture Cards' pile) with that compound word on it (i.e., 'sundress'). Place the card in the provided container.

### Let's try it!

1. Show each group where their bowling game set-up and 'Compound Word Picture Cards' pile is located.
2. Explain that in their group, two children will each roll a ball to knock down one bowling pin each. Then the other two children will each collect one of the knocked-down pins. On the next turn, the 'bowlers' will now be the 'collectors' and the 'collectors' will now be the 'bowlers' (and so on throughout the game). Regardless of which pair bowled or collected the pins on a turn, everyone in the group will work together to see if they can make a compound word. Remind them that they can switch the bowling pin order if needed. When a compound word is made, they can find it in their card pile and place it in the container.
3. Assist the groups as needed. Have fun celebrating when a new word is created. If you wish, remove any bowling pins from groups that have used a particular pin for all compound word combinations to increase the chances of making compound words with the other pins.

### What did we learn?

1. "What can happen when we put two small words together?" (It can make up a larger word: a compound word.)
2. "What is a compound word that you made today? What two smaller words are in your compound word?"
3. "Do you know any other clothing compound words? Do you know any other compound words?"

### Let's do more!

Give each child a 'Simple Word Picture Card' (e.g., 'sun' or 'glasses') and a 'Compound Word Picture Card' (e.g., 'sunglasses') that contains that word. See if they can find who has the other half of their compound word (e.g., 'sun' or 'glasses'). Then, they can work together to make up a sentence using their compound word.

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## EXTENDING THE LESSON

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### Less Challenging



- Set the bowling pins up in the regular bowling pin configuration (i.e., in small rows close to each other) so that many pins fall at once. Ask the children to try building compound words from the fallen pins.
- Use fewer bowling pins. For example, only set up the pins that can form a compound word (e.g., the 'sun' pin with the 'hat', 'dress', and 'glasses' pins).
- Have an adult work with a group needing assistance.

### More Challenging



- Add some provided 'Additional Simple Word Picture Cards' and 'Additional Compound Word Picture Cards'. NOTE: use more bowling pins or exchange some of these cards in place of the original activity cards.
- Use the provided 'Blank Cards Sheet' to add (or exchange) more simple and compound word cards. Suggested compound words: headband, armband, hardhat, rainwear, footwear, snowboard, wetsuit, spacesuit, tracksuit, pantsuit, jumpsuit, bodysuit, turtleneck, eyeglasses, nightgown, underwear, earring, bathrobe, handbag. NOTE: Some cards are already provided (i.e., rain, glasses, snow, suit, neck, under).
- Add a step so the children must decide what word they are targeting before they roll the ball.

### TIPS



- This activity works well for other themes or any combination of compound words.
- Instead of bowling, give a child in each group a 'Compound Word Picture Card'. Ask them to move (e.g., skipping, hopping) across the gym or open space to find the two bowling pins that have the small words needed to build their compound word. Continue with the next child in each group.