

**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):**

- Recognise 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."

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**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.

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**EXTENDING THE LESSON**

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**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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