

Exceptional Education / SUNY, Buffalo State
Instructional activity assignment - in lieu of the service learning assignment
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Space-It-Out

Targeted skills:

This is an activity that exercises children's spatial awareness. This skill is an important cognitive skill to exercise that creates awareness of oneself when in space and develops a cognitive understanding of how objects work together and are effected when they change position. This activity will also exercise children's fine motor skills. By moving the objects around in the given space, children will be using their hand muscles and eye coordination to complete the activity. You can also target language skills. To practice receptive language, you can direct the child where to put the object by using words such as: below, above, turn, move, and flip over.

Materials required (include price, quantity required, and links to follow to order materials)

- **Small rocks (about 30 in various sizes)**
- **Paper**
- **Writing tool**

***Note: you may use any small objects that vary in size in place of rocks, such as Legos, sticks, seashells, toy cars, candy. You may also do this activity outside using chalk on a driveway instead of paper.**

Instructions:

1. Using your choice of writing tool, draw a shape (heart, circle, square, etc.) on to the paper. Keep in mind the size of the shape to object ratio.
2. Spread out the objects around the shape.
3. Direct the child to "fit" the pieces into the shape.
4. Allow the child to use their spatial awareness to fit the objects into the shape until it is filled.

Modifications that may need to be made based on child's needs (list at least 2-3)

- *Use various shapes based on child's needs. A square may be easier to fill in while a more challenging shape may be a heart or diamond.*
- *Different sizes of the shape can be modified. A small-medium shape may be a good place to start. Keep in mind, too small may be challenging. A larger shape is also more challenging and more work.*
- *A more challenging modification would be to use various objects for one shape (i.e. sticks and stones, Legos and toy cars).*
- *Have the same shapes side by side. Have your child mimic your movements and make one like yours. You can use language such as: "Do this" or "make it look like mine". Use a "think out loud" process: "This rock looks like it will fit under the big rock. I am going to put in here".*
- *To practice other fine motor skills, a pincher or child-friendly tweezers can also be used to place the objects in the shape*

Notes - what existing skills are required to complete activity? What skills would follow?

Prerequisite skills the child needs for this activity is any type of grasp on objects. The child would need the ability to attend to the adult to listen to directions.

Skills to follow would include the understanding of how objects effect one another in the space they are in. The activity practices fine motor skills in the hands, promoting a pincer grasp on the objects. Children are also exercising their listening to direction skills during this activity.

Include a photo of materials, completed activity, game, etc.



Resource: <https://littlepinelearners.com/work-on-spacial-awareness-with-this-simple-nature-shape-puzzle/>

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Checklist

Targeted skill

- Identify one or two targeted skills
- Justification – explain why this skill important for young children

Materials required

include price, quantity required, and links to follow to order materials

- Price for each required item
- Quantities required
- Links to ordering information

Instructions

- Step-by- step
- Specific and detailed

Modifications

- Identify at least 2-3 modifications
- Justify and explain why modifications were selected

Notes

- Lists prior skill(s) necessary for completion of activity
- List skill(s) to follow

Photo

- Photo(s) included

Comments/feedback: