

10:00-10:30 QUICKETY - LICKETY LETTERS

GOALS: WHAT CAMPERS WILL LEARN

- To identify lowercase letters **r, o, p, e, (and if time and skill level permit s, u, n, m, a)**
- To visually discriminate between letters
- To identify letters through sensory exploration

WHAT YOU NEED

- 4 pitchers
- Measuring Cup
- 8 cups of water (2 cups in each pitcher)
- 4 cups of Corn Starch (1 cup per group)
- 4 large spoons
- 4 trays/bowls (for letters)
- Tin baking pans or plastic containers
- Food Coloring (optional)
- Plastic lowercase letters **r, o, p, e, s, u, n, m, a** (enough for every child to get each letter)
- INSTRUCTOR'S ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS & SCRIPT

SET-UP FOR ACTIVITY

- Campers should be sitting at tables in 4 small groups of about 5 children (depending on class size).
- Each table gets a pitcher containing 2 cups of water, one cup of cornstarch, a large spoon, a container or pan, and plastic letters (enough so each child can find each letter.)
- Find part in INSTRUCTOR'S ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS & SCRIPT that applies to this activity

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

Campers are asked to watch as the instructor goes to the first table and creates the quicksand/oobleck with the first group. Instructor includes children in pouring ingredients into container and stirring. The instructor hides all of the letters in the quicksand/oobleck. Instructor then moves onto the next group.

SKILL LEVEL OPTIONS

Level 1: Only lowercase letters **r, o, p, e** are hidden. Laminated letter cards are available for letter matching.

Level 2: Lowercase letters r, o, p, e, s, u, n, m, a are all hidden in the quicksand/oobleck.

Level 3: The letters r, o, p, e, s, u, n, m, a are used in both lowercase and uppercase form. Once letters are found, campers can try to spell the words sun, rope, and map with them.

DEMONSTRATE

Script:

Instructor: Does anyone remember what the Super Readers got stuck in as they were walking through the jungle?

Campers: Quicksand!

Instructor: Yes! They got stuck in quicksand. Today we are going to make our own quicksand. Luckily, we won't be getting stuck in the quicksand...but our letters will be!

First, we need to make the quicksand. I will start with group one. Everyone watch as I make our first batch of quicksand. Children watch as instructor directs first group. Each member in the group will get to pour or stir until the oobleck is complete.

Pour cornstarch and water into the container and mix them together with hands or spoon. If food coloring is used, instructor should walk around and put about 3-4 drops in each container of quicksand.

Now that our quicksand is ready, I am going to hide all of our letters in it.

Instructor holds up each letter and the whole class says the letter, then the instructor hides it in quicksand/oobleck. Instructor continues until all groups have quicksand with hidden letters (enough so each child can find every letter). The teaching assistant should walk around and assist with making the quicksand/oobleck and hiding letters to ensure that this step gets done in a timely fashion. Having these ingredients out without touching them will be difficult for young children.

Now that all of the letters are hidden in the quicksand, we are going to work in teams to "save" our sinking letters. I am going to call out a letter and you and your team must search for the letter in your quicksand. You have to be "lickity - quick" to save the letters! Instructor calls out a letter and then the campers search the quicksand/oobleck for that letter holding it up for everyone to see.

The instructor should not move onto the next letter until all of the letters are found. If a child finds two of the same letter, he or she should put the duplicate back for another child to find. After all the letters are found, campers can hide them again. Instructor walks around from group to group monitoring letter knowledge.

TRANSITION INSTRUCTIONS: Call out the letters in the word rope and ask those children who's names have that letter in them to come sit in the circle for the next game. *If your name has an r in it, come sit in the circle.* Continue with the letters in rope and then sun and map until all of the children have sat down.