

Recommended Slide Time: 5 minutes

Slide Purpose: Inform parents that vowels are among the first sounds their child may master.

Lesson Point 1. Tools: Mirror Flip-Flap; Handout *Point and Say Vowels*; Handout *Mirror Mouthing*. Children learn by imitation, and one way they learn to talk is by watching your mouth and tongue position.

Lesson Point 2. At-home activity: In, on, under. During daily activities, occasionally stretch the vowel sounds in words. “Get iiii-n your high chair”, “You’re oooo-n the swing”, “Look, kitty is uuuu-nder the bed.” When emphasizing vowel sounds, use the sound as it is in the word -- either a long or short vowel.

Lesson Point 3. In-class activity: Stretch a-e-i-o-u. Position your face so you are directly in front of your child, make eye contact and smile. Say, “Watch my mouth” and slowly say a vowel sound. “Your turn” and child repeats it back to you. Continue cooing vowel sounds back-and-forth. Near age two, your child may enjoy the words in the handout, *Point and Say Vowels*. Point to a picture and say the word, stretching the sound of the first letter. Encourage your child to copy you.

Lesson Point 4. In-class activity: Watch mouth in mirror. Repeating vowel sounds is effectively done in front of a real mirror, too. After you model the sound, your child watches himself in the mirror as he says the vowel. He can see if his mouth looks like yours. While your toddler is learning to talk, don’t correct his words, just be a good example.

Math and Reasoning: Target 13


I count to 5 by memory

Tools

- Your body - fingers, arms, legs
- See-Inside Number Peg Puzzle

Activities

- Move it, shake it
- Count all day
- Puzzle play:
 - Identify pieces as "numbers"
 - Count pictures under pieces



READY! for kindergarten

Age 2

Recommended Slide Time: 5 minutes

Slide Purpose: Create familiarity with counting in order from 1 to 5*.

Lesson Point 1. Tools: Your body – fingers, arms, legs; See-Inside Number Peg Puzzle.

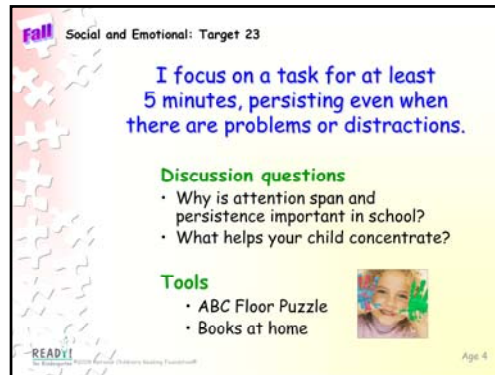
Lesson Point 2. In-class activity: Move it, shake it. “Take your two arms and wave them above your head. Now wiggle your five fingers in the air. Stomp your two feet on the floor.” Have fun using body parts to introduce counting. Research confirms that not only do children benefit from stimulating fine motor skills but that large muscle, gross motor movements activate brain development.

Lesson Point 3. At-home activity: Count all day. Recommend that parents count aloud naturally during the day. Their child will benefit from the context and repetition of hearing counting sequences of one, two, three, four and five. One, two buttons; one, two, three, four, five steps. Tickling in patterns of three, breaking crackers in two, or counting people ahead of you in grocery lines are all easy ways to surround the child with counting real world objects.

Lesson Point 4. In-class activity: Puzzle play. Ask parents to open the puzzle and suggest ways they can use it with their child.

- Children may confuse letters and numbers at this age, so explain that letters are used to create words and numbers are used for counting. Model counting pieces to the puzzle.
- As the child tries to match the numbers into their respective slots, name that number. Encourage child to look at the shapes and colors.
- Point out the pictures to count under each number. The pegs exercise fine motor skills, and strengthen the coordination for showing age with fingers.
- Store the puzzle in a special place until you are ready to “play with a purpose” again.

*Matching number shapes is presented in the winter lesson.



Recommended Slide Time: 5 minutes

Slide Purpose: Strengthen child’s ability to concentrate on a single activity for at least 5 minutes.

Lesson Point 1. In-class discussion: “Why is attention span and persistence important in school?”

Answers may include: it accelerates learning; important to complete class projects and assignments; allows for participation in story time, class discussions and “show and tell”; helps in getting along with others and accomplishing goals.

“What helps your child concentrate?” Concentration grows with practice. Ask parents to share ways that have helped their child develop concentration. Parents provide opportunities for their child by directing their child’s focus (e.g. “Look at this,” “Please pay attention to...”), giving small responsibilities (such as feeding the cat or watering the plant), and being patient and positive.

Lesson Point 2. Tools: ABC Floor Puzzle (distributed for Target 2 on slide #8); **Books at home.**

Lesson Point 3. In-class activity: Focus on puzzle. Discuss the different levels of engagement (focus) the child may have with the puzzle. This is an excellent tool for building concentration. It allows the child’s attention to move between the shapes, colors and letter-sounds while staying focused on the puzzle. Is the child content to play with the puzzle independently, or does the child want to talk with you about the activity?

Lesson Point 4. At-home activity: Focus on books. Ask, “Why are books good for developing attention span? How?” Remind parents that selecting books that are age-appropriate and interesting to their child helps keep attention.

Enrichment. Suggest parents be aware of how many times they redirect their child during five minutes of play. If a child is having trouble staying on task at age four or five, parents may consider adding new or additional strategies. If the child has a disability (e.g. ADHD) expectations for persistence may need to be modified.