

Getting Ready to Read Activity Carpet

Filled with possibilities from A to Z, your new carpet is sure to become one of the most popular places in your classroom! The colorful design is perfect for reinforcing early learning skills including color and shape identification, alphabet recognition, and counting to 20. Use it to manage group activities, too—just have each child sit on a different number or letter to make sure everyone can see!

Activity Suggestions

Here We Go 'Round the Alphabet

Invite one child to walk or skip from letter to letter as everyone sings this song to the tune of "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush": *Here we go 'round the alphabet, the alphabet, the alphabet. Here we go 'round the alphabet! What letter am I on?* When the song ends, have the child stop and call out the name of the letter she is standing on. If she is not sure, put a marker on her letter and have her return to the letter "Aa." Ask her to say the letters in alphabetical order as she walks around the edge until she reaches her letter. Encourage the rest of the children to say the alphabet with her as she walks along. Continue until everyone has had a turn.

As an alternative, children can play the game with letter sounds. When singing the song the last line should be changed to, "What sound do I hear?"

Counting Race

This easy game builds counting skills—and helps children develop a concrete understanding of zero! To prepare, cut 4 squares of paper and number them 0, 1, 2 and 3. (Add higher numbers if children know them.) Put the squares in a paper bag. Then, invite two racers to start by standing on the number 1. Direct one of the racers to pull a square from the bag and help him read the number on the square. Prompt him to move forward that many spaces. (Explain that if he pulls the 0 card, he must stay where he is.) Return the square to the bag, shake it up and have the other child pull a number and move. Continue taking turns. When the children reach 20, invite new racers to take their places until everyone has had a chance to play. (Tip: If many children want to play, shorten the game by having players race to a lower number such as 10.)

Secret Shape

Tell children you are thinking of a secret shape. Invite them to stand by the shape they guess you have picked. Then, give a clue such as "My secret shape has straight sides." Say, "Does anyone want to change their guess? Move to a new corner if you do!" Give additional clues such as "All the sides are the same length," or "The secret shape has more than 3 corners," prompting children to move after each clue if they wish. When everyone is standing by the correct shape, encourage your successful "shape detectives" to shout out the name of the secret shape.

Color Fun

Prompt up to six children to each stand on a different color space. Help them name the colors they are standing on. Can they think of something that matches their color, such as a red apple or blue sky? Encourage children to look at their classmates. Is anyone wearing their color? Finally, help each child identify the letters in her color word, touching each letter as you say them together: "B, L, U, E—that spells 'blue'!"

Caring for Your Carpet

Your new carpet is a great investment for your classroom. In order to keep it looking its best, please follow the suggested cleaning methods given on the back of this guide.

(continued on back)

Suggested Cleaning Methods

Professional steam-cleaning is the best way to clean your carpet. Many services are available to clean your carpet for you. **Dry-cleaning** is your next best choice. It's easy and inexpensive. Simply call Customer Service at the number below and ask for information about our dry-cleaning products. **Traditional shampooing** and **self-serve steam-cleaners** are **not** recommended.

Helpful Hints

- Do not walk on the carpet if it is wet or damp.
- Vacuum carpet daily.
- Clean carpet at regular intervals (before carpet is visibly dirty).
- Spot-clean high-traffic areas between overall cleanings.

Storing Your Carpet

When rolling up your carpet, roll it around the tube provided. (Constant rolling & unrolling can cause the backing to crack, so do so only when necessary.) **Beware of electric floor polishers:** Electric floor polishers can be very hard on the edges of your carpet. If your carpet is in an area serviced by this kind of equipment, move it out of the way before any polishing is done.

Spills and Stains

Absorb wet spills with a clean cloth or wet paper towel. Apply a small amount of the recommended cleaning agent to the stain (see chart below). Work from the edges of the stain to the center. Dry the area with a cloth or paper towel. For best results, remove stains *immediately*.

STAIN

RECOMMENDED CLEANING AGENT

Blood	Detergent or ammonia diluted with water
Chocolate	Detergent or ammonia diluted with water
Clay	Detergent and white vinegar diluted with water
Coffee.	Detergent and white vinegar diluted with water
Cola	Detergent or ammonia
Crepe paper dye	Detergent or ammonia
Egg.	Detergent
Food coloring	Detergent or ammonia
Glue	Detergent or ammonia
Grape juice	Detergent or ammonia
Ice cream	Detergent
Ink (washable).	Detergent or ammonia
Ketchup	Detergent
Milk	Detergent
Mustard	Detergent and white vinegar diluted with water
Orange drink.	Detergent or ammonia
Tea	Detergent
Tomato juice	Detergent
Urine.	Detergent and white vinegar diluted with water
Vomit	Detergent and white vinegar diluted with water
Watercolors.	Detergent or ammonia

For Customer Service, call (800) 428-4414.