

Early Childhood Education Program for *Clifford's Sports Day*

Name of Activity: Three-Legged Race and Matching Game

Students Participating; size of group:
10-16 or larger (Even number of students is recommended.)

Lesson Goal:

Children will participate in a three-legged race that involves matching [pictures of four sports](#) with the [printed word counterparts](#).

Learning Objectives/Skills: The learners will be able to:

a) Listen for particular words or sounds and recognize printed words and letters as they identify sports words (soccer, hockey, football, and baseball) by listening for and recognizing the sounds of the first letter.

b) Engage in literacy related play and learn through turn-taking, as they take turns to race and find the pictures that match the words.

Environmental Adaptations, Time & Materials Needed:

The following activities can be adapted to different situations: There should be enough adults to help children play the game, recognize words and the matching pictures. Preplan how many teams should race at once, depending on your space and numbers of children. You could have as many as four (therefore eight children), or as few as two (four children)

The activities will take approximately 25 minutes depending on students. The following materials will be needed:

- A big poster of sport word list (**B**aseball, **S**occer, **F**ootball, **H**ockey). Capitalize and make bold the first letter of each word.
- Enough big cards of each sport word for children to play the three-legged race game.
- Pictures of the counterpart sport words.
- Scarves or twine to tie legs together for the three-legged race.

Procedure/Description of the Activity:

1. Gather children and seat them as if for storytime. Refer to *Clifford's Sports Day*, and ask children to recall or recognize the various sports Clifford and his friends played. Ask children what sports they like and let them talk about it. Then show them the sport words listed on the poster. Help them learn to recognize the words by listening to the sounds of the first letter. Tell them that they will be playing a game where they will need to find the pictures that match each of these sports words. Practice while children are sitting. Set out the four sports pictures and have children take turns reading a sport word and matching it to the picture.

2. Teach children to listen to each word and the sound of the first letter. Ask them to say the sounds. Remember to praise them when they try.

3. Make sure that each child gets at least one turn to match, but engage all children in trying to say the sounds that go with the first letters.

4. Then tell children that they will be playing a three-legged race game. Ask one child to help you demonstrate the three-legged game they will play. You and the child choose a sport word, read it, and then run (with your legs tied together) to the finish line and find the picture that matches the word you have. Remember to praise and thank the child for helping.

5. Pair children. Tell them each time there will be two to four teams racing at a time, and that they will take turns to race. Give each team one of the sport word cards. Tell them to help each other figure out the word, and then look for the right picture at the finish line.

