

Training Module*

Seriation Skills

PURPOSE

To explore the meaning and importance of seriation skills as they relate to young children ages two to five.

DEFINITION

Before we begin, let's take a minute to define the term *seriation skills*. Seriation skills can be defined as "the ability to arrange objects in order by size." To further explain the concept of seriation skills, let's take a look at a specific example.

EXAMPLE

Jacob's teacher shows him three different sized blocks. She asks him to identify the largest block. Jacob completes this task easily. Next, he correctly identifies the medium-size and small blocks. When finished, Jacob's teacher asks him to arrange the blocks from the smallest to the largest. Jacob carefully places the small block on the table, then places the medium block next to it, and, finally, the large block at the end.

The above example clearly depicts the skill of seriation. When Jacob placed the blocks in order from the smallest to the largest, he was demonstrating the skill of seriation. Jacob's teacher could have requested that he arrange the blocks from the largest to the smallest. This would also be a demonstration of seriation skills.

IMPORTANCE OF SERIATION SKILLS

The development of seriation skills is a step-by-step developmental process. As children grow and develop, their ability to seriate will also develop. For instance, a very young child (two years old) may not be able to seriate at all. The concepts of "small, smaller, smallest" and "large, larger, largest" probably will not mean much to such a young child. However, an older child (four years old) may be capable of seriating three or four objects quite easily. Just like any other skill, the ability to seriate will develop with each individual child at his/her own rate.

Seriation skills are important for a number of reasons. First, seriation skills are often related to more complex math concepts, such as ordination or placing numbers in the correct order (for example, 1, 2, 3).

Furthermore, well-developed seriation skills also help to develop higher-order thinking and problem-solving skills. In other words, in order to arrange three blocks in order from the smallest to the largest, the children must first be able to analyze the situation and then develop a solution.

Seriation skills definitely need to be introduced and reinforced through a wide variety of hands-on, developmentally appropriate activities. Later in this module, we will explore some specific materials that can be used to introduce and reinforce the skill of seriation. But right now, let's take some time for you to try it out yourself!

*ATTENTION TEXAS CUSTOMERS: This training module is considered self-instructional material.

TRY WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED!

Locate the following materials based on the age group with which you will be working.

two to three year olds – 3 boxes

(small, medium, large)

four to five year olds – 3 blocks

(small, medium, large)

For Two to Three Year Olds

Show the children the three boxes and talk with them about the size of each one. Next, place the boxes on the table in front of the children. Ask, "Can you show me the small box?" Have the children work together to identify the small box. Next, ask, "Can you show me the medium-size box?" Again, have the children identify this box. Finally, ask, "Can you show me the biggest box?" Once more, have the children work together to identify this box. If you work with very young children, you may want to have the children merely identify the size of the boxes. If, however, you feel your children are ready, have them help you place the boxes in order from the smallest to the largest.

For Four to Five Year Olds

Show the children the three blocks you collected. Have the children work together to place the blocks in order of large, larger, largest. You may also want to repeat this activity for the order of small, smaller, smallest.

Record what you observe.

EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES AND MATERIALS THAT DEVELOP SERIATION SKILLS

There are many different types of activities and materials that are designed to help the children develop seriation skills. The following are just a few examples.

Sorting Cylinders

These wooden manipulatives help children begin to understand the concept of seriation through hands-on activity. As the children play with the different-size cylinders, they can put them in order from the smallest to the largest OR largest to the smallest.

Who's the Tallest? Who's the Smallest?

This is a great hands-on activity to help the children begin to understand the concept of seriation. First, choose three children who are visually different in height (small, medium, large). Arrange the children in order from either the smallest to the tallest or the tallest to the smallest. Once the children are arranged, encourage the remaining children to describe the sizes they see. Repeat this procedure with a different group of children.

Shoe Sort

To play this game, you will need a baby shoe, a small woman's shoe, and a large man's shoe. Show the children the three shoes. Have them arrange the shoes from the smallest to the largest or the largest to the smallest. This activity can also be done with other clothing, such as shirts or pants.

Each of the activities mentioned above can help your children develop seriation skills.

SUMMARY

There are many different materials and activities that can be utilized to help young children develop seriation skills. As you begin to develop activities for your children, keep in mind that young children of the same chronological age often function on many different developmental levels. Start with simple activities and then move to more complex ones. Most important, have fun!

ATTENTION CDA TRAINERS: Have each CDA candidate complete this Follow-up Evaluation individually after your group presentation. Evaluate his/her performance and then discuss the results together. This evaluation does not need to be reviewed by HighReach Learning.

Follow-up Evaluation

Seriation Skills

Name _____ HRL Customer Number _____

Address _____ Phone _____

School Name _____ Phone _____

School Address _____

Who is responsible for payment? Self Other _____

1. Define seriation skills.

2. Why are seriation skills important to the young child?

3. Choose one activity from the examples on page 2 and describe how it could be used to help a child develop seriation skills.

4. Name one learning material (not listed on page 2) that you could introduce to help the children develop seriation skills.

5. Develop your own activity that could be utilized to develop seriation skills.

6. Look through the curriculum you use in your classroom and identify two activities the children worked on this month that helped build seriation skills. If you cannot find two, design two yourself.

7. Provide the children in your group with three pairs of shoes (baby, small woman's and large man's). Have the children arrange the shoes in order from the smallest to the largest. Record your observations below.

This Training Module is designed to be used in conjunction with the curriculum you are currently using in the classroom. Prior to completing the module, explore your curriculum plans and think about how the topic of the module fits into those plans. Throughout the coming months, consider ways in which you can apply the training topic to a variety of classroom activities. As with children, practicing new skills on a daily basis makes a big difference.

In order to receive credit:

1. Read the Training Module and complete the Follow-up Evaluation.
2. Enclose check or money order in the amount of \$18.00 (payable to HighReach Training Program) and your completed Follow-up Evaluation.
3. Mail to:

HighReach Learning
Attn: Training Department
5275 Parkway Plaza Blvd, Suite 100
Charlotte, NC 28217

***Attention Customers: These modules have been approved as training credit in many states.
Call 1-800-729-9988 or visit our Web site at www.highreach.com to see how many hours YOU can earn!
New states are added throughout the year, so check back often for updates!***