

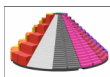


Activity B.3
Mother May I?

Game Objective: Reach the top of the mountain by calculating addition and subtraction problems correctly.

Recommended Number of Players: 1 to 3

Ages: 4 - 5



Setup:

- 1) Place the following tokens in the Treasure Trove:
 - a. Tokens numbered **0 through 5**, from the red foam card (which will indicate subtraction).
 - b. Tokens numbered **1 through 5** from each of any other three colors of foam cards (which will indicate addition).
- 2) Using a new foam card (any color not already in use), place consecutive numbers (1 to 12) number side up in the notches on the 3x staircase. Then turn the tokens over in place blank side up.
- 3) Each player needs his/her own marker small enough to fit on the 3x staircase (button, shell, beads, uniquely colored token used blank side up, etc.) Have each player put his/her marker on the tabletop in front of the 3x staircase.

Play:

- 1) Players take turns picking a token out of the treasure trove and requesting permission to move to the correct step using the following format. They should calculate and tell you the ending position.
 - a. If it is **not a red** token, the player should say "Mother, May I move **up** ___ steps to the ___th step because (starting position) + (token) equals (ending position)".

For example, a player on the 4th step who draws a blue token #3 would ask: "Mother, May I move **up** 3 steps to the 7th step because 4 + 3 equals 7".

- b. If it is a **red** token, "Mother, May I move **down** ___ steps to the _____th step because (starting position) - (token) equals (ending position)".

For example, a player on the 10th step who draws a red token #4 would ask: "Mother, May I move **down** 4 steps to the 6th step because $10 - 4 = 6$ ".

NOTE: If the number on the red token is greater than the player's current position, teach players to say "negative number" and draw again.

- 2) When the player moves to the appropriate step, determine whether his/her calculations were correct or incorrect by turning the token in the notch number side up (if it wasn't already) and saying "Yes you may," or "No you may not" depending in if the player solved the problem correctly. The final resting position of the player's marker is determined as follows:
- a. Correct addition: The player's marker stays at the calculated sum and the player's turn is over.
 - b. Incorrect addition: The player's marker returns to the previous starting position.
 - c. Correct subtraction: The player's marker stays at the correct difference but he/she gets a free turn.
 - d. Incorrect subtraction: The player's marker has to move to the correct difference but he/she **doesn't** get a free turn.
- 3) After the player's turn is over, return the token that was used to indicate how many steps to move up/down to the Treasure Trove.
- 4) Continue play with the next player selecting a new token from the Treasure Trove and asking "Mother May I move (up/down) ___ steps?"
- 5) The first player to get to the top, wins.