



“The Literacy - Executive Function Connection”

Teacher Notes

PH-01

Directions:

- The students read across the top line, then the second, then the third..
- Given the third is a clapping symbol, they clap softly three times.
- They should complete the whole page with the same beat throughout, as with a song.
- The next challenge would be to complete the page three times.
- Once a student masters going across the three rows, the next challenge is to work from top to bottom, column by column.
- As a further extension, they could move from the bottom up; we do not recommend going from right to left, as that may be confusing when just learning to read and learning the alphabet in order.

Executive Function Skills:

Following multiple steps	Students have to read across one row and then continue to do the same for the next two rows.
Categorizing information	Students see the numbers group separately from the letters.
Shifting focus from one event to another	Students recite letters, then numbers; then they have a physical act to complete.
Remembering details	Students have to remember the order in which to complete the entire page.
Focusing	To complete the page, students must focus on the task at hand.
Attending to a person or activity	This is the first executive function skill required for this activity, to simply attend to it.

Extensions:

- With several cards like these (the next three letters and numbers, etc.), have one student pull a card for another student to recite, and vice versa, building social skills.
- Once students get a sense of the cards and their purpose, have students create their own original cards (which could be accomplished by giving students pages of letters, numbers, physical actions, pictures, words, etc., to cut out and glue in order).