



Long Activity
Ages 6-8
30-60 minutes

Pool Noodle Word Finder

Description

Participants will create their own pool noodle word finder and use it to generate words

Number of Participants

For a minimum of one participant

Space Considerations

Any space where participants can sit at tables and chairs

Competencies

- Development of fine motor skills
- Eye-hand coordination
- Letter recognition
- Logic and sequencing
- Vocabulary building

Materials

- Pool noodle*
- Long wooden dowel, stir stick or similar tool*
- Large alphabet stickers or foam alphabet stickers*
- Permanent markers
- Paper
- Pencils or markers
- Scissors or knives (adult use only)
- Cutting board (adult use only)

*While shopping for material, make sure you compare the sizes of your pool noodle, wooden dowel or tool, and alphabet or foam alphabet stickers, to make sure they are compatible.

Preparation

1. For each set of word finders, compare wooden dowel (or similar tool) to pool noodle and mark the three sections to make rings of equal length. The length should not exceed the length of the dowel.



2. Cut the last marked section using the edge of a knife or scissors on a cutting board, leaving the pool noodle long enough for your activity, with two marks left.



3. For pre-cut sets, cut marked areas using a knife or scissors on a cutting board.



Implementation

1. Give each participant or group a pool noodle with marked areas for cutting.
2. Adult participants will cut pool noodle into three pieces according to the marked areas using a knife or scissors on a cutting board, and insert a wooden dowel or tool through the hole in the centre.



3. Decide what letters you would like to put on the noodle rings (either horizontally or vertically), and space them out.
 - For three-letter words, we recommend using consonants for the first and third rings, and vowels for the second ring.
 - For large-size letters, we recommend three letters per ring.



4. Rotate rings to form various words, and write them down on a piece of paper. See how many words you can find.
 - Option #1: Three-letter words can only be formed horizontally or vertically in order
 - Option #2: Three-letter words can be formed with scrambled letters out of order
 - Option #3: Words of any length can be formed with any letters on the rings

Accessibility Considerations

- Cut noodle rings into medium size
- Ensure the letters are as large as possible and also spaced out
- Use foam letters
- If writing on foam rings, use capital letters

Book Suggestions

Grandmother School by Rina Singh and Ellen Rooney

When Stars Are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed

Download Links

[Pool noodle word finder instructions PDF](#)

Images

Pool noodle word finder examples

