

Staircase CAT4 Vocabulary Game

Looking for a creative way to prepare your child for the CAT4 test?

This original vocabulary activity is designed for **7-year-olds preparing for the CAT4 verbal reasoning section**. It uses physical movement, repetition, and simple objects around the house (like stairs and toys) to teach important position words like **top**, **bottom**, **middle**, **above**, and **step**.

It's fun, easy to follow, and a great way to support your child's English language development and test confidence at home.



The Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4) assesses a child's reasoning abilities in various areas, including verbal reasoning. This activity focuses on enhancing vocabulary skills relevant to the CAT4 verbal reasoning section

Target age: 7-year-olds | year 2

Goal: Introduce and reinforce key vocabulary used in CAT4-style verbal reasoning (spatial concepts, sequencing, question words).

What You'll Need:

- 3 small toys (toy 1, toy 2, toy 3)
- A staircase with at least 6 steps
- A balloon or soft object to hang above the stairs (string/tape)

Important Step!

You might need to answer your own questions at first. Have your child repeat what you say. Speak slowly and clearly. After a while, your child will start to answer the questions without assistance. This should be done as a fun game. Do not tell your child they said something wrong. Instead, say "Good job!" followed by the correct wording.

Step-by-Step Activity

Step 1: Introduction to Stairs and Positions

1. Place the toys:

- Toy 1 → bottom right of the staircase
- Toy 2 → middle step, right side
- Toy 3 → top step, right side
- Hang the balloon **above the top of the stairs**

2. Introduce the vocabulary:

- “These are *stairs*. This is a *step*.”
- “I’m **pointing** at **toy 3**. It is **on top** of the stairs. We are at the **bottom**.”
- Walk up together: “Let’s go **up** the stairs.”
- Now at the top: “I’m pointing at **toy 1**. It is at the **bottom** of the stairs. We are at the **top**.”
- Ask: “Where is **toy 2**?” → “Toy 2 is in the **middle** of the stairs.”

3. Repeat until understanding is clear.

Step 2: Question Practice + Movement Patterns

1. Ask Questions:

- “We are at the **bottom**. Which toy is at the **top**?”
- “**Which** toy is in the **middle**?”
- “**Which** toy is at the **bottom**?”
- “Can you **point** at the toy in the **middle** of the stairs?”

2. Movement Sequences:

- “Let’s go **upstairs in a zigzag pattern**.” (Demonstrate)
- “Let’s go **downstairs in a zigzag pattern**.”
- “Let’s go **up** in a sequence of 4 steps: 1... 2... 3... 4. 1... 2... 3... 4.”
- “Let’s go **down** in a sequence of 6 steps.”

3. Introduce ‘above’:

- Ask: “Where is the balloon?”
→ Child answers: “The balloon is **above** the stairs.”

Language Repetition & Focus

Encourage repetition of these key structures:

- Which toy is at the ____?
- We are at the ____.
- Let's go ____ the stairs.
- The ____ is above the stairs.
- Which toy am I pointing at?

Key Vocabulary Covered:

- **Nouns:** stairs, step, toy, balloon, pattern, sequence
- **Prepositions/Adverbs:** top, bottom, middle, above, up, down
- **Question words:** which, where
- **Verbs:** point, go, walk, repeat
- **Concepts:** zigzag, sequence, number patterns

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