



Step It Out!

Snack Stacks

When you need to solve a problem or complete a task, it can help to **step it out**—that means thinking about the steps you need to do, and then doing them in order. This **computational thinking skill** is a creative way of thinking that can help children solve problems in more organized ways. Try the ideas below to practice this skill with your child.

Total time needed: 15–20 minutes

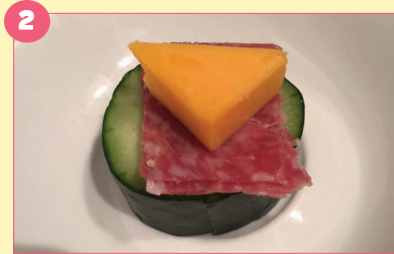


Watch the Story

Monkeys Unstuckeroo

Ask your child:

- What problems did the monkeys have when they tried to get unstuck from the vase?
- What steps did they use to get the Unstuckeroo Goo?



Do the Activity

Snack Stacks

Follow the directions on the next page to do the activity. You'll need:

- Mrs. Flamingo's recipe card
- At least 2 round, 2 square, and 2 triangle foods (such as crackers, cheese, tortilla chips, or cucumber slices)
- Snack cards, if you prefer not to use food (printed and cut; see last pages)



Watch the Music Video

Join Together

Watch the monkeys sing as they work together to do something none of them can do on their own. Teamwork can help solve lots of problems!



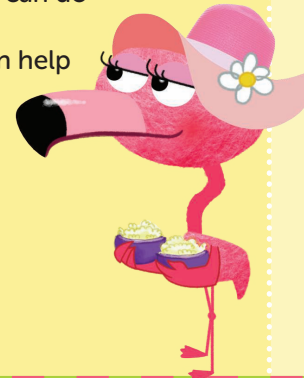
Read a Book (Optional)

Baking with Dad

by Aurora Cacciapuoti

Ask your child:

- What does the girl like about doing things with her dad?
- Look at the page with the ingredients. Why do some have a red "X"?



Do the Activity

Snack Stacks

Follow Mrs. Flamingo's recipe to make a tasty three-layer snack. Your child will **step it out**: think about the ingredients needed and stack them in the right order. You can **step it out** to solve all kinds of problems and do all kinds of tasks!

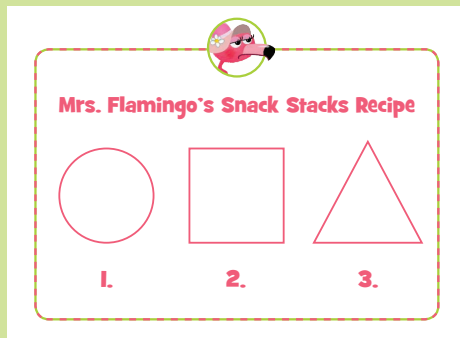


Introduce the Activity

(see materials on first page)

1. Tell your child:

- *I have Mrs. Flamingo's recipe for a delicious snack. Help me make it!*
- *Let's look at the recipe and think about the steps to follow.*

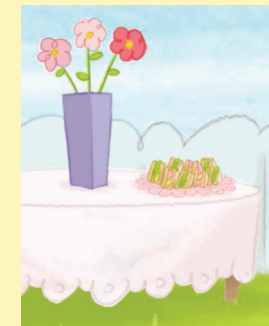


Step It Out!

1. First, help your child think it through. Show him the recipe and ask:
 - *How many steps are there?*
 - *What shape food comes first, on the bottom?*
 - *What shape food comes second, in the middle?*
 - *What shape food comes last, on the top?*
2. Help your child **step it out**. Have him describe each step, find the foods that match the shape, and stack them on his plate in the right order.
3. Have your child follow the recipe again so there is one snack stack for you and one for him.
4. Remind your child of what he did:
 - *You **stepped it out** by thinking about the shape of each food and putting them in the right order. You can do lots of tasks by **stepping it out!***

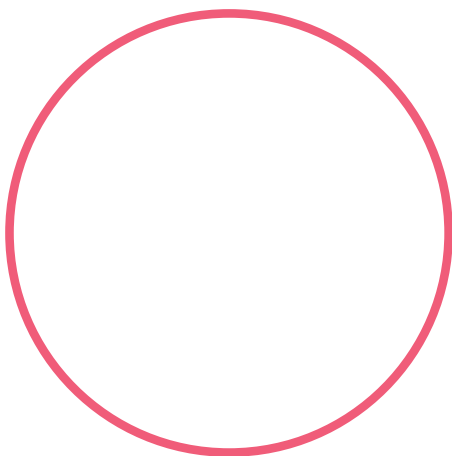
TIP: More ways to practice

Have your child create his own recipe using a bigger stack of snacks, with 5 or 6 shapes. Use paper to draw the shapes in order, the way Mrs. Flamingo did. Practice **stepping it out** as your child prepares his new recipe!





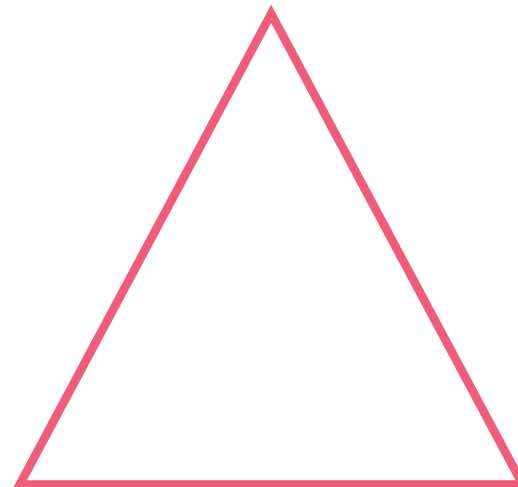
Mrs. Flamingo's Snack Stacks Recipe



1.



2.



3.

Snack Cards

Here are some ideas for food you can use in the recipe—but feel free to use your own ideas too! You can use real food, or cut out the snack cards and use them instead. Your child will make two snack stacks—one for himself, and one for you. You'll need one round, one square, and one triangular food for each stack.

