



Step It Out!

Make a Story

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

At the Drop of a Hat

Ask your child:

- What did the monkeys mean when they said they wanted to put Granny Mama's pictures "in order?"
- How did that help them find the hat?



Do the Activity

Make a Story

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

- Scissors
- Story cards (printed and cut; see last 2 pages)



Watch the Music Video

Good Time

Watch the monkeys sing as they clean their messy room. When they work together to finish the job, they can all go to the beach sooner and have some fun!



Read a Book (Optional)

The Backwards Birthday Party

by Tom Chapin and John Forster
Illustrated by Chuck Groenink

Ask your child:

- What is different about how this story is told?
- What things were the opposite of what you'd expect at a birthday party?



Do the Activity

Make a Story

Your child will use the cards to make up a story about the monkeys by **stepping it out**: thinking about what is happening on each card and then putting the cards in 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. Lay the story cards out in a mixed-up order. Ask:
 - What do you think this story might be about?
2. Then say:
 - We have a problem. Here are pictures that show what happened in the story, but they are not in the right order.
 - How can we figure out what happened first, second, and third?

Step It Out!

1. Help your child think it through. Ask:
 - What do you think is happening in each of these pictures?
 - In every story, things happen in a certain order. Which picture shows what happened first? How do you know?
 - Which picture shows what happened next? Why do you think that?
 - Which picture shows what happened third? Tell me why you think so.
2. Have your child **step it out** by putting the pictures in order from first to last. Then ask her to tell the story from beginning to end. (The correct order is: gathering the ingredients to make lemonade, stirring the lemonade, and drinking it.)
3. Remind your child of what she did:
 - You **stepped it out** by thinking about the pictures and putting them in order. You can solve lots of problems by **stepping it out**!



TIP: More ways to practice

Find a cozy spot with your child and read her favorite story. Afterward, have her **step it out**. Ask her what happened first, second, third, etc., until all the important events have been told in order. Try it with other books or a show on TV!



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Story Cards





