



SM33



10-15 minutes

## UP THE STAIRS



To develop comparative skills - use a common baseline as a reference point for comparing heights

To develop sequencing skills - order objects by size, and display the sequence using a common baseline



- ❖ Rectangular strips (colour according to the option of the program you are doing)



- ❖ A paper Matryoshka doll (or use a real one) and a paper butterfly



- ❖ 5 building blocks from your Physical Product Pack or any other set you have, that can be ordered in size
- ❖ A sheet of A4 paper
- ❖ A real Matryoshka doll (if you have one; if not, use the paper one provided)
- ❖ Other bricks/blocks, like Lego, Cuisenaire rods or multi-link cubes



Introduce your child to the Matryoshka doll. Tell your child: *The Matryoshka doll is trying to catch a butterfly that is high up on a tree. What could she use to help her get to the top of the tree?* Ask your child for ideas; they will probably say a ladder (*she says she would be too nervous as it wouldn't be very stable*), or a rope (*she says she wouldn't like that either*). Establish that a staircase for her made of some blocks would be a good choice so she can climb up safely and catch the butterfly.

**Modelling with blocks:** Use five building bricks to build the staircase together. Show your child how to build the staircase by standing the bricks on end and choosing the longest. Then they have to choose the longest of the bricks that are left, and so on until all the bricks have been sequenced. When you have built the staircase help the Matryoshka doll climb the stairs to catch the butterfly.

**A paper model:** Now ask your child to build a staircase from the paper strips. First they will need to find the longest strip, then the longest out of those that are left, and so on until they have sequenced all five steps. Remind them of the rule: to build a staircase the bottoms of all the paper strips (the steps) must be on the same line, for example the edge of the paper, just like how they stood the blocks on a level base. If your child struggles with this, take a ruler and draw a line for them to line up the pieces against, or give them a ruler and help them draw it for themselves.

When the paper steps have been sequenced to form a staircase, ask your child to glue them down on the A4 sheet. They can then play with it, helping the Matryoshka 'walk' up the stairs to get the butterfly at the top and come down again.



Show your child how they could make steps from other bricks, for example multi-link cubes, Cuisenaire rods or Lego bricks. Sequence the steps in order of size to make a staircase. Play at helping the Matryoshka doll or another similar-sized doll/toy character climb the stairs.

You could also encourage your child to experiment with building a staircase with bricks by laying them flat on their widest faces instead of standing up on their narrow end.



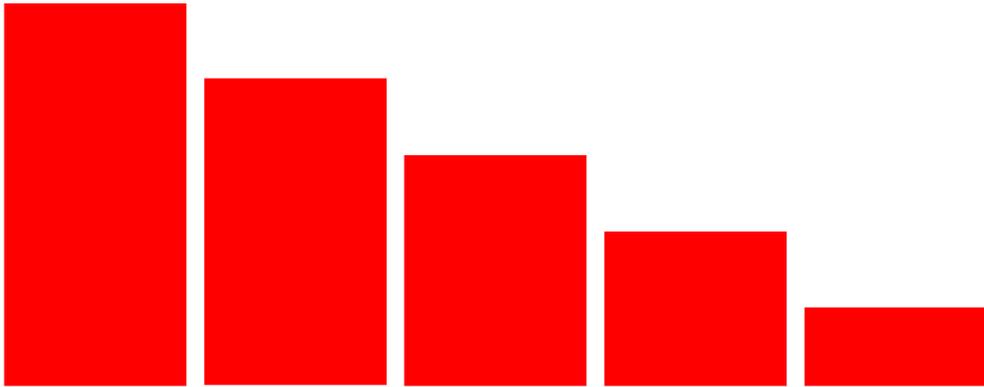
Your child can order five (or nine if they are older) paper strips to build a set of stairs. Your child can build the stairs with reference to a baseline.



KEY TO LEARNING  
@HOME

Cut out each rectangle and character separately – the rectangles must be cut exactly without any white showing.

Use the red version if you are doing this session as part of the Caterpillars level.



Use the green version if you are doing this session as part of the Pre-Butterflies level, to make it a bit more challenging.

