

Obstacle Course Part 3

The Map

Players 1-6



Ages 4+



15-20 min

GOAL

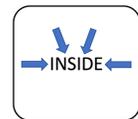
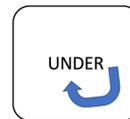
Turn a 3-D obstacle course into a 2-D map of the course on paper.

MATERIALS

Art Materials



Spatial word cards



VOCABULARY

Map

QUESTIONS

How did you know where on your paper to draw that?
Can you describe your map?

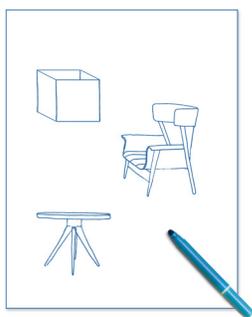
HOW TO PLAY

1. Make sure the obstacle course from **Obstacle Course Part 1** is still set up.

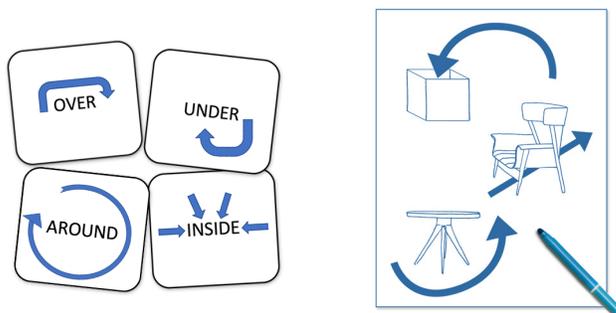
Note: If you were not able to make a large obstacle course, you can still do the mapping activity! Just create a mini-obstacle course on the floor or table using figurines, blocks, spoons, or other small objects

2. Have children look at the entire obstacle course from 1-2 feet away. Say, "You finished the obstacle course! Now, can you draw a map of the obstacle course on paper? Once you draw your map, we will use it to help us walk through the course one last time."

Help children use art supplies to draw the obstacle course. Start by drawing all of the medium-to-large items (e.g., chairs).



3. Then, have children use the spatial word cards to describe their path through the course. Help them draw lines and arrows on their paper to show their path.



4. Finally, have children use their maps to walk through the obstacle course. At each step, prompt children to use spatial language to describe the step (e.g., “Now you’re at the chair. Where does your map say to go?”).

WHAT CHILDREN ARE LEARNING

- Mapmaking is an important skill for preschoolers to practice! Help children learn what maps are by pointing out the maps at bus stops, in stores, and in parks. As you walk around, show children how the objects and landmarks in front of them correspond to points on a map.
- When children create their own maps, they are representing their 3-D world in a 2-D picture. This helps them build spatial reasoning skills. Encourage them to keep practicing!