

3 Little Speckled Frogs

Activity Structure – 45min

Activity	Timing
Warm up Game	5 mins
Introduce Story and Project	10 mins
Main Activity	25 mins
Final test & debug	throughout
Share with group	5 mins

Overview

This project would suit more experienced coders as it uses messaging blocks. The rest of the code is simple and repetitive.

Let's create an animation based on the popular children's song "Three Little Speckled Frogs". Watch as one by one the frogs jump into the pool.

Learning Objectives:

- To use the Jump block.
- To use the hide block.
- To start using multiple messaging blocks.

EYFS Curriculum Links

Maths: In practical activities and discussion: beginning to use the vocabulary involved in adding and subtracting.

Maths: Counts up to three or four objects by saying one number name for each item.

Warm up game: Buggy Code

- *What do we mean when we talk about testing and debugging our code? Why is this important?*
- Show the children the SJR warm up file. My code has got a few bugs (mistakes) - could you help me to fix it?
- Start with the purple frog. *Why isn't my purple frog moving like I've asked? What have I forgotten to do?*
- *Oh no! The blue frog isn't working either. How could I fix it?*
- *Uh-oh, on the second page I wanted to frog to jump and move forward at the same time. Does anyone have any idea how I could fix this?* Children could discuss in pairs before suggesting solutions to you.

Introduction (discuss the project together, share ideas and create excitement)

- Have children sit in a circle. Sing "Three Little Speckled Frogs" together to build their familiarity with the song. If you know the actions do these too. You could use three fingers and count down with them as the frogs jump into the pool (this will support young children's counting).
- *Does anyone know what 'speckled' means? Why do you think they jumped into the pool?*
- Ask the children, "Who would like to be a frog?" Select five children to play frogs. Ask the five children selected to come toward the front of the circle area and pretend that they are frogs sitting on a log.
- Begin the song. "Five little speckled frogs, sat on a speckled log . . ." When you get to the part that says, "One jumped into the pool . . .," ask for one of the "frogs" to jump into the "pool." The child should pretend to frog-hop into a pool.
- *How many frogs are on the log now? How many frogs are in the pool?*
- Show the children the project. Choose one code script to discuss with the children.

3 Little Speckled Frogs

Main Activity Key questions and teaching

1. Select a background. Use the Paint Editor to add a pool for the frogs to jump into.
2. Select and edit three frogs so that each is a different colour.
3. *How could we make the frogs jump all the time? How high would you like your frog to jump?* Remind the children that the number under the jump block is not how many jumps the character will do but how high the character will go.)
4. Position the frogs. Let's code the first frog.
5. We need to record the song in 2 parts.
 - a) "Three little speckled frogs sat on a speckled log eating the most delicious bugs. Yum, yum!"
 - b) "One jumped into the pool, where it was nice and cool. Then there were two green speckled frogs. Gulp, gulp!"
6. Add the following line of code: [Green flag, 1st Recording, 2nd Recording, Send orange Message]. This will give your song the correct timing.
7. Add another line of code: [Green Flag, 1st Recording, Down 5, Hide].
8. We want the frog to jump into the pool when we get to the second recording (in the first line of code). In the second line of code the 1st recording 'holds' the frog in place until the correct moment. *How far should your frog jump down? How is your frog going to hide?*
9. Repeat for the next two frogs. Support the children to use the correct message blocks.

Teaching points

- For progression, having worked with the tutor to code the first frog, the children could attempt to code the second and third frog with increasing independence.
- Have the code blocks the children will use available to remind the children of what each block looks like and specifically what colour background they are on, to help the children locate them.
- Encourage the children to test and debug throughout.

Possible Extensions (pick maybe 2 or 3 ideas as the extension)

- The children could have five speckled frogs.
- Have the numbers above the frogs (opportunity for the children to practise writing the numbers on a tablet).
- Make a second page where the frogs could be playing. The children could tinker with the different movement blocks. *How could I make the frogs move in an interesting way? Can you create a sequence for the frogs to jump at different heights?*

To Simplify

- Don't code the frogs to jump into the pool, or code them to jump down 'on tap' (avoiding the need for messaging or hide blocks).
- Focus on making the frogs jump at different heights by altering the number beneath the 'jump block'.
- Once they've recorded the song, let the children tinker with using the movement blocks and the 'repeat' and 'repeat forever' blocks to explore different ways of making the frogs move. Make sure the parents/carers understand that tinkering is a valuable teaching strategy.

Finishing up

- Share with group.
- *Did you have to do any debugging today? What did you do?*

Resources

Five Little Speckled Frogs

Five Little Speckled Frogs (Hold five fingers (frogs) on top of your other arm (log)
Sat on a speckled log
Eating the most delicious bugs. Yum! Yum!
One jumped into the pool (jump a finger off the log into the pool)
Where it was nice and cool
Then there were four green speckled frogs. Gulp, gulp! (Hold up four fingers)

Four Little Speckled Frogs
Sat on a speckled log
Eating the most delicious bugs. Yum! Yum!
One jumped into the pool
Where it was nice and cool
Then there were three green speckled frogs. Gulp, gulp!

Three little speckled frogs
Sat on a speckled log
Eating the most delicious bugs. Yum! Yum!
One jumped into the pool
Where it was nice and cool
Then there were two green speckled frogs. Gulp, gulp!

Two little speckled frogs
Sat on a speckled log
Eating the most delicious bugs. Yum! Yum!
One jumped into the pool
Where it was nice and cool
Then there was one green speckled frog. Gulp, gulp!

One little speckled frog
Sat on a speckled log
Eating the most delicious bugs. Yum! Yum!
She jumped into the pool
Where it was nice and cool
Then there were no green speckled frogs. Gulp, gulp!