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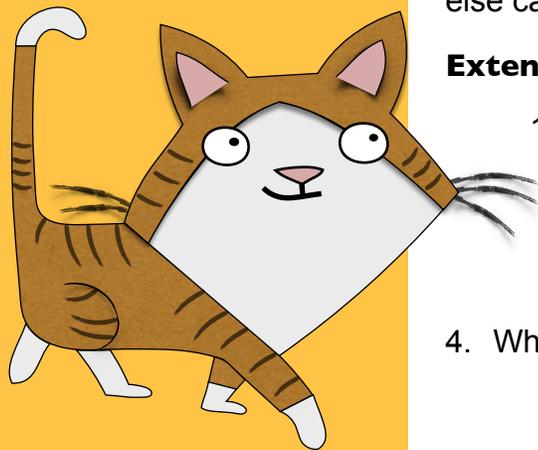
Lou and her friends use their imaginations to become anything they want. One day, they imagine the top of a tree is actually a pirate ship. Lou has never climbed a tree before. What will she do?

Ages: 3 to 7 years

Interest Level:
Preschool to 2nd Grade

ATOS Reading Level:
2.2

Lexile: AD500L



The Thing Lou Couldn't Do

Will Lou play in the pirate ship?

Topics: growth mindset, spatial relationships

Math Connections: Use *The Thing Lou Couldn't Do* to explore a growth mindset, spatial relationships, and manipulation in math.

A growth mindset helps a child persevere and work through difficulties, fears, and problems. With a growth mindset, a child can learn how to tackle a new challenge even when difficulties arise. Talk with your child about how Lou dealt with the challenge of climbing a tree. Bring up how she decided to be positive and continue to try even when she wasn't able to do it on the first try. Talk about how Lou plans to return to the task and keep trying until she succeeds.

Imagination can help a child look at their environment with a different lens. It allows them the flexibility to manipulate their environment. For example, a blanket fort can be a tent in the forest or a space ship. Learning to use their imagination to manipulate their environment can help a child learn how to manipulate later math concepts such as shapes, math equations, and formulas. For example, manipulating 2-D shapes into a 3-D shapes.

The Thing Lou Couldn't Do can also be used to talk about spatial relationships. Spatial relationships is how one object is located in space in relation to another object. Next time you're at the park with your child, talk about and point out spatial relationships. While going up the stairs your child is now *on* top of the park equipment, they are *in* between the railings, you are *below* them when they walk over the bridge, and so on. Where else can your child point out spatial relationships?

Extension Questions:

1. How have you overcome a fear or challenge?
2. Why is it important to try things more than once?
3. How does perseverance and a growth mindset come in handy throughout the day?
4. Why is it important to understand spatial relationships?

EARLY MATH PROJECT LITERATURE REVIEW

Vocabulary for Building Math Concepts	down, first, five, in, many, on, once, up
Vocabulary for Extending Math Concepts	growth mindset, perseverance
Vocabulary for Reading Comprehension	fortresses, landlubber, scalawags

Early Math Project Resources:

One Page: <https://bit.ly/2U0gH47> (English)

Coming Soon! (Spanish)

A Pirate Ship: <https://bit.ly/35egtsg> (English)

Coming Soon! (Spanish)

Online Resources:

DIY Puzzle Instructions to work on spatial reasoning: <https://bit.ly/3x8JFgg>

Teaching a Growth Mindset: <https://bit.ly/2TZ6vcb>



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Spanish Title: Not available.

Related Books: *The Most Magnificent Thing* by Ashley Spires, *Giraffes Can't Dance* by Giles Andreae, *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds

Find this book at your local library: https://www.worldcat.org/title/thing-lou-couldnt-do/oclc/1135488145&referer=brief_results

Age Level	Related Preschool Foundations and CA State Standards
Preschool/TK	Preschool Learning Foundations https://bit.ly/34vEeN3
Preschool/TK	Mathematical Reasoning 1.0 Children use mathematical thinking to solve problems that arise in their everyday environment.
Grades K-3	California Common Core State Math Standards https://bit.ly/31No7bP
Kindergarten	Standards for Mathematical Practice: 1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
Grade 1	Standards for Mathematical Practice: 1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
Grade 2	Standards for Mathematical Practice: 1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

