

Let's Beat the Bogey-monster

Co-operative game for children

Copy the picture at right. The teacher/adult asks the children 20-30 questions (e.g. reading sight cards) and if the children get one wrong, the teacher traces over one of the parts of the monster. If the monster is completed before the children finish the questions, the monster wins.

This game is designed to eliminate competition between the children, so they can relax and co-operate to answer the questions correctly. It works best with a small group, but can be used with one child (you may need to help with clues, if the child is having difficulty).

If you want to make sure all children in a group have turns, you can give each child a turn, but they can ask for help from the group ('support crew') if they want to.

You can also vary the number of questions and the number of parts that you trace over in each turn, to extend the game. You may want to add hair, belly button, teeth, etc, or you can draw your own monster. The children may colour and embellish it when the game is finished, for extra fun.

For a 20-30 question game, the suggested order of monster parts to draw is: 1. head outline; 2. body outline; 3. one arm/hand 4. the other arm/hand; 5. one leg/foot; 6. the other leg/foot; 7. the nose; 8. both eyes; 9. the mouth!

For a quick 'sudden death' game, you could draw: 1. head outline; 2. body outline; 3. both arms; 4. both legs; then 5. All the facial features!

