Red Light, Green Light
Red Light, Green Light

Demonstrate Top, Middle & Bottom
It is important that children understand top, middle, and bottom so they can describe position in geometry. They also need to understand directions. We use these terms when teaching children how to form their letters and numbers. We also teach them to read from top to bottom.

Look What We’re Learning

Geometry
- Identify position or location using top, middle, and bottom
- Draw a picture to help solve a problem

Problem Solving
- Draw a picture to help solve a problem

Social-Emotional
- Take turns

Literacy
- Listen to follow directions

Sensory Motor
- Move an object in one hand to position it for release
- Look at hands and use visual cues to guide reaching for, grasping, and moving objects

Vocabulary
bottom
middle
top
tower
Materials/Setup:
• Red, yellow, and green cubes (1 per child)
• 4 Squares More Squares red, yellow and green Little Pieces
• Red, yellow, and green crayons
• Traffic Light handout from A Click Away (1 per child)

Grouping:
Small group (10)

English Language Learners:
Hang the stoplight picture before the activity. Say the word and have children repeat it. Have you seen this before? Where? Point to the top. What color is at the top? Repeat steps for middle and bottom.

Objective
Children use top, middle, and bottom to describe position.

Activity
Let’s learn about top, middle, and bottom.

1. Build a cube tower. Green is at the bottom. Yellow is in the middle. Red is at the top. What does this look like? A traffic light!
2. Have pairs of children make towers that match. Invite them to describe their towers.
3. Give each child red, yellow, and green Little Pieces. Let’s build a traffic light. Put the red at the top. Continue with the middle and bottom.
4. For more practice, invite children to color the Traffic Light page. Let’s color red on top. Continue with middle and bottom.

✓ Check for Understanding
Ask students to build a tower of blocks with yellow on bottom, red in the middle, and green on top. Do not provide a model. Do their towers match your directions?

Support: Sing “Where Do You Start Your Letters?” from the Get Set for School Sing Along CD, track 1. Dance and show children where to find the top, middle, and bottom on their own bodies.

More to Learn

I Found the Top
Build a picture with your 4 Squares More Squares pieces. Use top, middle, and bottom to explain where pieces should go. See “Look, I Made a Flower!” (second activity) in the 4 Squares More Squares activity booklet.

What’s in the Middle?
Extend the lesson by asking children to build a tower of four cubes. It’s easy to point to the top and bottom, but more challenging to understand that two blocks are in the middle.