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FIT TOGETHER SPELLING BLOCK

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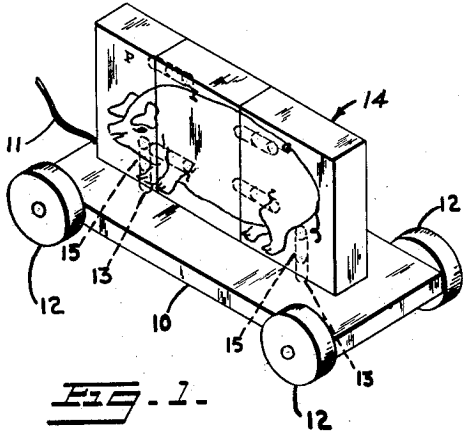


Fig. 1.

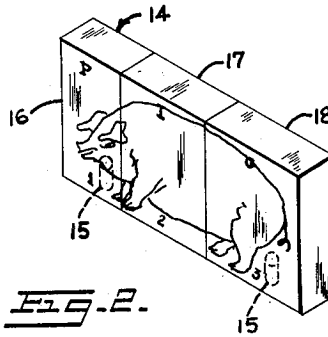


Fig. 2.

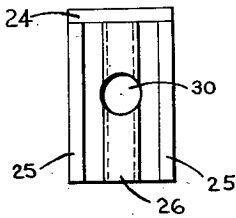


Fig. 6.

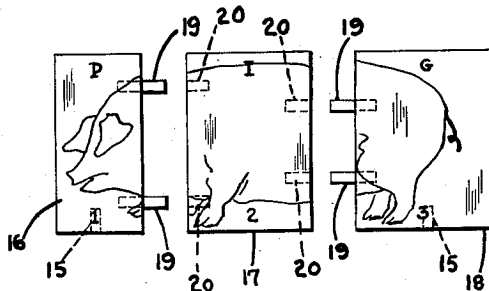


Fig. 3.

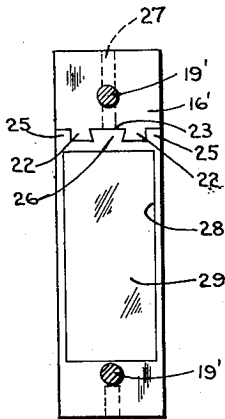


Fig. 5.

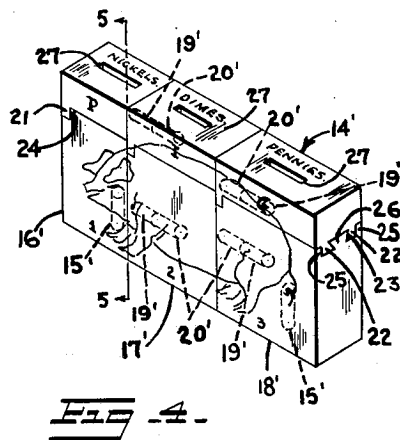


Fig. 4.

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## FIT TOGETHER SPELLING BLOCK

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3 Claims. (Cl. 46-2)

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This invention relates to new and useful improvements in a spelling toy.

More specifically, the present invention proposes the construction of a child's toy characterized by having a number of parts provided with simple attachments so that a child can assemble the parts and disassemble them, the parts being constructed to be coupled to each other and having parts of numbers, letters and figures so that the child will learn to spell and to observe.

A further object is to provide a toy as aforesaid which may be pulled along on wheels.

Another object is to provide a toy as aforesaid which also is a bank which, because of its interest to a child, will encourage the child to save small coins and will thus teach thrift.

The toy of the present invention includes fit-together blocks. It is a constructive educational toy which forms a game for children. It will teach them to spell and to have fun while doing it. The toy has a picture of an animal on each side and each of the parts has a letter so that when put together the name of the animal is spelled. Thus the child not only learns how to spell but also learns the names of certain animals. The picture of the animal is cut into as many parts vertically as there are letters in the animal's name. For instance, "pig" has three parts, "lamb" has four parts, and so on.

For further comprehension of the invention, and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, and to the appended claims in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawings forming a material part of this disclosure—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a toy constructed in accordance with this invention.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a part of the toy.

Fig. 3 is a side view of the part of Fig. 2, taken apart.

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 2 of a part constructed in accordance with a modification of this invention.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged section on the line 5-5 of Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is a plan view of the bottom part of Fig. 5.

The toy shown in Figs. 1-3, according to this

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invention, includes a pull wagon 10 having a string 11 and four wheels 12. Two spaced dowels 13 upstand along the longitudinal center line of the wagon. A rectangular block 14, having orifices 15 for the dowels 13, is supported in vertical position on the wagon. The toy is preferably made of wood, or plastics.

The block 14 is a fit-together spelling block and is made of three vertical parts, 16, 17 and 18, part 17 being in the middle and orifices 15 being in parts 16 and 18. When the three parts are together, there is a different figure of an animal on each side thereof. For instance, a pig is shown on one side in the drawings and another animal such as a cat may be shown on the other side. If the name of the animal has three letters, as P I G, then three parts are used. If a lamb was shown, however, there would be four parts. Thus if a pig is shown on one side an animal having a name with three letters must also be shown on the other side, such as a cat or a dog.

The head of the pig is on part 16, the rear end on part 18 and the middle on part 17. The letter P is at the top of part 16, the letter I on part 17 and the letter G on part 18. Also the numerals 1, 2 and 3 are on the bottom of parts 16, 17 and 18 respectively. The other side, having the cat, will have the letters C A T at the tops of the three parts respectively, and the numerals 1, 2 and 3 at the bottom. Any animal may be shown, the only restriction being that there must be a part for each letter in the animal's name.

The three parts 16, 17 and 18 are connected by dowels 19 fitting in bores 20. The dowels are arranged so that the three parts can only be put together correctly. Such an arrangement is shown in Fig. 3, wherein the top dowel in part 16 is nearer the top than the bottom dowel is near the bottom, while in part 18 the dowel 19 at the top similarly differs from the position of the dowel 19 at the bottom and furthermore the dowels in part 16 are farther apart than the dowels 19 in part 18 so that it is impossible to place the dowels 19 of the part 16 in the right end sockets 20 of the part 17. That is, when the parts are together, the picture of the pig will be on one side and the picture of the cat on the other. The numbers 1, 2 and 3 are used to aid the child in putting the parts together.

From the foregoing description it will be seen

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that the toy is a very elementary toy for very young children. It constitutes a pull toy when all together. If the child takes it apart, he must learn to assemble the parts of the block and to assemble the block with the wagon. Furthermore, by putting the parts together correctly he learns the value of 1, 2 and 3 and how to spell the animals' names. Furthermore he becomes familiar with the animals. For spelling 4 or 5 letter words, 4 or 5 blocks are provided, respectively.

A toy constructed in accordance with a modification of this invention is shown in Figs. 4-6 Only the block is shown, as it can be used on the wagon of Fig. 1. The block has all the parts of the block of Figs. 1-3 and parts corresponding to like parts of the first embodiment are indicated by like references and no further description thereof is deemed necessary. The block of Figs. 4-6 has additional features rendering it more complicated and of additional interest.

The block 14' has each of its parts formed of two portions disposed one on top of the other. Each part is so divided in a similar manner and only one part, namely the part 16' will be described, it being understood that the same description is pertinent to the other parts.

The top portion of part 16' has a depending shoulder 21 extending horizontally across its width and also has two longitudinally extending depending ribs 22 having formed between them a dove-tail groove 23. The top surface of the bottom portion is provided with a transverse shoulder 24 coacting with the shoulder 21, two upstanding flanges 25 disposed outwardly of the ribs 22, and a dove-tail tongue 26 for sliding in the dove-tail groove 23. Thus the two portions can be firmly assembled, but only from one side. All the dove-tail tongues and grooves are similar so that the child can assemble the wrong portions together, this making it more complex for the child, and forming an advanced toy. It must be remembered, however, that the toy nevertheless can be used as a simple toy by a smaller child who will not divide the parts into their portions.

A further feature of the toy of Figs. 4-6 is that each part of the block 14' forms a bank. Each part has a slot 27 in its top for a coin and this slot extends entirely through the top portion vertically. One slot will be for a penny, another for a dime, and another for a nickel. When more than three parts are used, additional slots for quarters, and half dollars may be added.

The bottom portion of each part has a chamber 28 for receiving coins. This chamber opens through one of the transverse sides of the portion and is covered by a pane of transparent plastic 29. The chamber opens through the top of the portion by way of a circular opening 30 through which the coin drops. Thus, by taking the portions of a part apart, the bank therein can be opened for removal of the coins. By taking the parts apart, the coins can be viewed but cannot be removed.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred embodiments of my invention, it is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the precise constructions herein disclosed and the right is reserved to all changes and modifications coming within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

Having thus described by invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by United States Letters Patent is:

1. A toy comprising a rectangular block hav-

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ing a picture of an animal on each of its two opposite longitudinal sides with the name of each animal thereabove, each of the animals having a name of the same number of letters, said block being divided vertically into as many parts as there are letters in each name with one letter in each part, and dowel connections connecting said parts, the dowels in one part being spaced differently than the dowels in another part and the dowels in each part being spaced a different amount from the lower edge of said block whereby said parts can only be assembled in one manner correctly, each of said parts being divided horizontally into an upper and a lower portion, said upper and lower portions being connected by a dove-tail tongue and groove connection, the two portions of each part having transverse co-acting shoulders crossing said tongue and groove connection at one end thereof whereby said two portions can be slid together from one side only, said tongue and groove connections being similar in all portions so that any of said lower portions can be interchangeably assembled with any of said upper portions, each of said upper portions having a coin slot extending vertically therethrough and each of said lower portions having a chamber for receiving coins.

2. A toy comprising a rectangular block having a picture of an animal on each of its two opposite longitudinal sides with the name of each animal thereabove, each of the animals having a name of the same number of letters, said block being divided vertically into as many parts as there are letters in each name with one letter in each part, and dowel connections connecting said parts, the dowels in one part being spaced differently than the dowels in another part and the dowels in each part being spaced a different amount from the lower edge of said block whereby said parts can only be assembled in one manner correctly, each of said parts being divided horizontally into an upper and a lower portion, said upper and lower portions being connected by a dove-tail tongue and groove connection, the two portions of each part having transverse co-acting shoulders crossing said tongue and groove connection at one end thereof whereby said two portions can be slid together from one side only, said tongue and groove connections being similar in all portions so that any of said lower portions can be interchangeably assembled with any of said upper portions, each of said upper portions having a coin slot extending vertically therethrough and each of said lower portions having a chamber for receiving coins, each of said coin slots being of a different size to receive different value coins, each of said lower portions having an opening through its top into its chamber, and having an opening through one transverse side, said transverse side opening being closed by a pane of transparent material.

3. A toy comprising a rectangular block divided vertically into a plurality of parts, each of said parts being imprinted on at least one side thereof with a portion of a picture so that when said parts are properly assembled the picture is properly assembled, dowel connections between the parts, the dowels in one part being spaced differently than the dowels in another part and the dowels in each part being spaced a different amount from the lower edge of said block whereby said parts can only be assembled in one manner to correctly assemble the picture, each of said parts being divided horizontally into an upper

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portion and a lower portion, said upper and lower portions being connected by a dove-tail tongue and groove connection, the two portions of each part having transverse co-acting shoulders crossing said tongue and groove connection at one end thereof whereby said two portions can be slid together from one side only, said tongue and groove connections being similar in all portions so that any of said lower portions can be interchangeably assembled with any of said upper portions, each of said upper portions having a coin slot extending vertically there-through and each of said lower portions having a chamber for receiving coins.

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