

Games to Develop Skills for Literacy

We develop a range of skills to help learning. These include:-

- Visual attention – looking carefully at what you see.
- Visual discrimination – being able to match or see differences.
- Visual memory – remembering what you see, especially in sequence.
- Hand and eye co-ordination.
- Pencil control
- Listening carefully.
- Being able to discriminate sounds.
- Being able to remember sounds, especially in sequence.

Games to promote and develop these skills are a valuable way of helping our children's learning.

Examples of the types of games and activities that can be used are –

Games to Develop Visual Skills

- Jigsaw puzzles- good for developing looking, matching and discrimination skills.
- Card games such as Uno or playing cards. These can be used to play Snap, Pairs, Donkey which develops visual discrimination and memory.
- Memory games e.g. 'An Elephant Never Forgets' {from Early Learning Centre}; Vendespil Memory Game {from Tiger Shop}; 'Quack Quack' {Orchard Toys}.
- Visual matching games – 'Bugs' {Early Learning Centre}; slider picture puzzles which can be mixed up then slid around to remake the picture.
- Activity books which include puzzles such as finishing a picture; finding objects hidden in the picture; 'Where's Wally'.

Activities to Develop Hand and Eye Co-ordination and Pencil Control

- Colouring books – encourage short sessions that focus on filling in sections and keeping within the lines. Complete picture over a few sessions rather than all at once.
- Dot – to – Dot books.
- Tracing paper activities to trace letters, numbers, pictures, etc.

Activities and Games to Develop Phonics, Spelling, and Story Writing

- Jolly Phonics Lotto game.
- Letterland Lotto game.

- Rhyming Lotto games
- Alphabet card games – use letter sounds NOT names as it is the recognition and use of the sounds of letters we use when decoding and blending in words.
- Puzzle that matches letter sound to a picture.
- Cards which have common words on them.
- ‘Silly Sentences’ games.
- Scrabble.
- Hangman.
- Crosswords.
- Wordsearches.

Games to Develop Listening Skills

Memory games

- ‘I went shopping and in my bag I put.....’ Child has to remember a list, given by adult, of things put into bag, start with 2 then increase by 1 each time.
- ‘I went shopping and in my bag I put.....’ Start to make a list with child which are in alphabetical order, e.g. apples, bread, carrots, etc.
- ‘I went to the airport and saw.....’ List given this time would relate to airport.
- ‘I went to the seaside and saw.....’ As above.
- ‘Simon says.....’ Give instruction of what to do, e.g. jump up and down. Increase the number of actions by 1 each time, e.g. Simon says jump up and down, then clap your hands, etc.
- Listen to then recall a story.
- Work on ‘find and remember’. For example tell child to get a yellow pencil, a rubber, a piece of paper, etc. Increase amount of items to be found.
- Use a colouring picture and give child instructions for colouring it in, colour the car red, the house blue, the tree yellow, etc.
- Learn songs, rhymes, and poems together.
- I spy with my little eye something beginning with..... Increase the amount of objects to be found.