

Problem Solving

Activities to Help Your Child Grow and Learn



Your child is learning to count things and can count up to three or four items. He can probably count up to 10 from memory. His knowledge about the world is growing. He now understands simple opposites such as up and down, and whether things are the same or different. He understands patterns or degrees of change, such as "cool, warm, hot" or "loud, louder, loudest."

Remember What Happened When

Encourage your child to tell you about things that happened in the past. You can start with this phrase: "Remember what happened when...(you suggest the event)?" Follow up with questions. "What did you like the best? What happened next? And then what happened?"

Guess Who?

At any quiet time, play this little guessing game. Think of someone your child knows well. Give clues one at a time to see if your child can guess who you are describing: "She has curly hair." When your child guesses correctly, switch turns. You might even describe the goldfish!

Color Hunt

Have a scavenger hunt for colors. Say, "Can you find something blue to bring me?" When your child returns, give her another color. If she brings back the wrong color, say, "You brought me a green sock. Can you find a blue sock?" You can give her clues, such as a piece of blue paper to hold while she looks for something blue.

Where Does It Go?

Put a glove or sock on your head or somewhere it doesn't belong. Ask, "Where is my glove?" When your child points or says it's on your head, ask him where it really belongs: "On my hand? Really?" Have fun with this silly game. Try another object, such as a bar of soap in a cereal bowl.

What Do You Do When

Ask your child simple questions, such as "What do you do when you're really tired?" "What do you do when you get hungry?" or "What do you do when you're all wet?" See if your child can give you answers that make sense. Talk about it.

What Doesn't Belong?

Gather three things that are very similar or in the same category, such as three lemons. Add a fourth item that does not belong, such as a bar of soap. Ask your child which one doesn't belong. You can also gather three things from the bathroom (soap, shampoo, toilet paper) and add something else, such as a screwdriver: "What doesn't belong? Why?"

Make a Rhyme

Play a rhyme game. You can make up the first part: "I picked up my *book* and started to..." Encourage your child to fill in the blank with a word that rhymes, such as *look*. Ask your child to quiz you, too!

Notes:



Don't Forget! Activities should be supervised at all times by an adult. Any material, food, or toy given to a young child should be reviewed for safety.