

Fun listening & memory games

Listening Games

Simon Says

Give children instructions (e.g. Stand up, clap your hands, stand on one leg, etc.) but they should only do it when you say Simon Says before the instruction.

A Story

Read a story to your child and ask them to clap each time they hear a specific word (e.g. the name of one of the characters). Alternatively they could put a brick on a tower each time they hear 'their' word.

Deliberate Mistakes

In a sentence, make up some silly and sensible statements e.g. 'The elephant climbed up the tree.' 'The car hopped down the road.' 'The cat said miaow.' See if your child can tell you which ones are silly and why and see if they can make up an alternative. e.g. 'cars can't hop – you have to say drive'.

In a Story

Tell a familiar story and make a deliberate mistake. For example, if telling 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' you could say there were cornflakes in the bowl or there were six chairs. See if your child can spot the mistake.

Odd One Out

Say a list of words where one is different e.g. dog – cat – biscuit – horse, or trousers – chair – jumper – sock. See if your child can tell you which is the odd one out and why. Start with 2-3 words and gradually increase the number.

Noisy Hide and Seek

Hide an object in the room, such as a set of keys. Make a noise when you put the keys down. Take the blindfold off and see if the child knows where you have put them.

Copy me

Draw a simple picture (e.g. house/tower) without the child seeing what you have drawn/made. Describe the picture to them for them to draw it. (E.g. 'Draw a house in the middle of the page. It has got a pointed roof and a chimney.') The aim is for the child to draw a picture/make a model identical to your own but without him/her seeing it. The game can be made more difficult by a) drawing more complex pictures, b) including colours, c) giving longer instructions.

What's that sound?

Record some familiar sounds (e.g. turning on the tap, picking up keys, opening the door). See if your child can tell you what it was, just by listening to the noise.

Listening skills are vital for children to...

- Interact and communicate with others effectively.
- Learn from behaviour modelled by others.
- Deepen communication and develop relationships.
- Grasp learning more clearly and easily.
- Develop better concentration and memory.

Memory Games

Play **Kim's Game**: put a few items on a tray, look carefully. Cover the tray. How many can they remember? Can they see the one you have removed?

Talk about, photograph or write out some 'events' from something you have done together – can your child remember the correct order and **sequence the pictures**?

Play the **Shopping Game** – first player says "I went shopping and I bought ..." The next player repeats the phrase and adds an item. Each player repeats the phrase and list so far and adds a new item.

Memory Master

Players stare at a picture in a magazine/catalogue/book for a minute. Quiz the player about what they can remember.

Category Game

Players are required to list words in a particular category in 1 minute e.g. List all the colours you know. How many animals can you say?

Doing it myself

Children learn things best when they are doing it for themselves. Be sure to repeat this many times too.

Pairs

Lay cards out face down. Turn two cards over, if they match the player keeps them, if not they are turned back over. The aim is to match the most pairs.

Memory games exercise the brain, making it more sharp and alert. If you play memory games at least 30 minutes every day, your concentration and focusing ability will improve.