

Early Years Play Activities

Simple Matching

(Based on 'Nonverbal Thinking, Communication, Imitation and Play Skills with some Things to Remember' Kerry Hogan)

1. First the child should develop confidence in matching objects to one another. Depending on the child you may want to start with exactly matching items.

Then matching objects with photographs of the objects and then pictures of the objects.



2. It is important to master matching objects to pictures before matching pictures to other pictures. The object/picture step ensures that our child understands the meaning of pictures.



3. Later, the child can then move onto matching pictures to one another (photographs, pictures and drawings). Different types of pictures may be more or less meaningful to your child. You will have to experiment to see what works best.

Some children find photographs easy to understand but for others photographs are too literal i.e. the photo can only represent the one object that is in the picture and no other.

As the child's matching skills and understanding of pictures develops, the types of pictures used can become more abstract.

