



Parents as Teachers.

ACTIVITY *page*

24-36 months

What do we have?

- > 6 sets of 4 identical playing cards or matching cards (24 cards total)
- > Safety scissors
- > 2 pieces of 8½ by 11 inches lightweight cardboard (optional)
- > Markers (optional)
- > Tape (optional)
- > Favorite toddler books

Book sharing



Your child loves to hear her favorite books. When you read to her, pause and ask if she can tell you what comes next. Or read most of a line and let her say the last few words from memory.

Memory Games: Matching and Playing Cards Together

How do we do it?

1. Let your child help you choose the cards she would like to use. (You can use playing cards, matching cards, or make your own.)
2. Sort out six matching pairs of cards. Place one card from each pair face up on the table. Place the other six cards face down in a stack. Ask your child to take the top card from the stack and encourage her to find the match.
3. After your child learns to play Memory with half of the cards face up, you can transition to a harder version.
4. Place all 12 cards (six matching pairs) face down. Turn over one card. Then turn over another and ask, “Do they match?” If the answer is yes, you get to take them. If not, turn them face down again and let your child have a turn.
5. As you play, observe your child. Is she is having trouble matching cards? Is she frustrated? Find a way to make the game simpler.

What's in it for us?

- > **Motor:** Your child uses small muscles in her hands to pick up the cards, turn them over, put them down, and mix them up.
- > **Social-emotional:** Your child learns social skills when she takes turns with you while playing games. Her favorite games are simple ones without winners and losers.
- > Your child may just have fun dumping cards out, picking them up, and putting them back in the box.

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(child skill or parent skill defined by the parent/parent educator)

Your child's brain



The differences and similarities in the pictures are becoming part of the memory “file folders” in your child's brain. She can pull them up when she sees an object like the one in the picture.



Parents as Teachers.

Parenting behavior

Supporting learning: Your child learns the names for new objects pictured in these games.

What I noticed about my child ...

What I noticed about myself ...

Continued learning

Play Lotto with your child. Use two pieces of cardboard to make game boards. Draw lines with the marker to divide each board into six equal sections. Let your child help you tape 12 different cards face up on each section.

Use the remaining 12 cards to take turns drawing cards and finding the match on the board. When you find one, place that card face up on top of the match on the board.