Stanislaus County
Office of
Education

Child/Family Services

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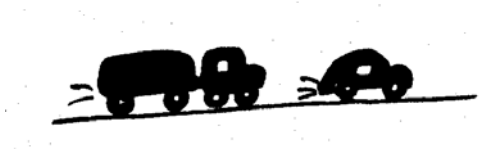
"Travel Games For The Preschool Child"



Resource & Referral Handout

WORD GAMES

ANIMAL Make animal sounds and let your children take turns naming the animals. If your children are able to do so, let them take turns making the animal sounds.

MATCH-UPS Name an object that usually is associated with another object or objects. Let your children take turns naming its partner.

Examples:
Salt . . . . . Pepper
Fork . . . . . Spoon or knife
Socks . . . . . Feet or shoe
Table . . . . . Chair

Do not be too particular; accept any answer that has an association of any kind.

COLORS Name a color and have your children take turns naming things that are always that color. See who can name the most.

Example: YELLOW . . . . . lemon, banana, corn, daffodil

Note that most answers will be items made by nature.

STORY Start a story with your children. Stop often and let them tell what would happen next. Children of all ages can usually participate in this game.

VIEWING GAMES

COLOR HUNT Call out a color and type of vehicle. See who can find the first one.

Example: Blue Station Wagon

COUNTING Many miles disappear when you are counting. Set a time period (such as until 3:00 or until we reach such and such town). "Let's see how many campers we can count." Or, another time, you might all decide to count double semi-trucks.

LETTERS Older children can look for letters on signs to spell their names and other words. Younger children may not know how to spell but they can look for special familiar letters.

Another letter game is to pick a letter (for example a B) and have the children look for things that start with that sound.

PAPER AND CRAYON GAMES

Do not bring pencils for young children. They are too dangerous in case of sudden stops. Large tablets of paper and crayons are best.

PICTURE BEGINNINGS Draw a few lines or shapes on the paper. Have your child make something out of your beginning shapes. Accept whatever they draw. Never tell children what to draw. If they ask for ideas, suggest that they draw something happy, or a blue picture, etc.

ADD A FEATURE Two or more people can work at this activity. The object of the game is to end up with a drawing of a person. Everyone takes turns drawing the person, adding only one feature at a time. This is a good game for beginning drawers (whatever they do not know how to draw or cannot remember about the make-up of a person can be added by someone else). Older children enjoy this also, because they can use their sense of humor to add funny features to the drawing.

CONNECTING DOTS Four or five year old children can enjoy this game.
Procedure: On a piece of paper, draw three rows of three dots each.
Game: Two players. Take turns drawing lines connecting the dots. The person who draws the line between two dots and thereby completes a square, gets to put his initial into the square and take another turn. The person who owns the most squares when all the squares are completed, wins the game.

TIC-TAC-TOE Young children also enjoy playing Tic -T ac - Toe.
Game: Two players, one is X and one is O. They take turns placing their marks in a space. Any person who can get three marks in a row , in any direction, wins the game.

TRAVEL BOX GAMES

Make a travel box for your child. You will need a sturdy container with a lid that can be used as a game board or table. An aluminum cake pan with a plastic lid works well. Cut out a large piece of felt to fit on the inside of the lid. Cut out small felt shapes of different colors and store them in a small zip-lock bag. Inside the cake pan, store a pad of paper, some crayons, a pair of dice, a deck of cards, and the bag of felt shapes. You might also include a small cloth bag with a drawstring. Fill the bag with small plastic cars, animals, people, etc.

FELT BOARD To make a felt board, have the child lay the cake pan lid on his lap upside down and ten lay the large piece of felt inside. He now has a surface on which to arrange and rearrange his felt shapes.

CARDS Children can play Fish, War, or just enjoy sorting their deck of cards.

DICE Using the dice, one child can roll both dice and try to get pairs or different combinations of a number (such as six) or two children can each take a die and see who can get to six by rolling the die. To play the game, you must first roll a one and then continue rolling until you get a two and then a three and so on.

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