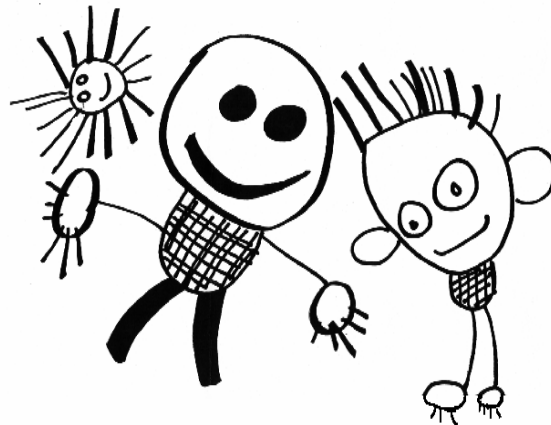




**Now I am going to Kindy!**

**Fun Kindy Readiness Activities**



**Reading Readiness**

Please see the Reading with your Preschool Child hand out in your show bag.

## Twenty Questions

Twenty Questions is designed to improve your little one's problem solving skills and develop language skills simultaneously. This game will also help to build your child's memory and recall, challenging them to think beyond what they can see in their immediate surroundings.

For this game you need to begin by thinking of an object (something), a person (someone) or a place (somewhere). You would then tell your little one which of these three categories the item falls into. By asking you only 20 questions they need to try to work out what the item is that you are thinking of. For Example: Adult: I am thinking of something we use everyday. Child: Is it in this house. Adult: Yes. Child: Is it in this room? Adult: No it is in another room. Child: Is it in the bathroom? Adult: Yes. Child: Is it the bath tub? Adult: No - but you are very close. Child: Is it the bathroom sink? Adult: Yes - Well done - Let's try another one. As your little one gets better at this game they could eventually be the one thinking of the person, place or thing. If your child has trouble sticking to their original item as the questions continue you may want to collect a number of pictures of people, places and things and utilize these.

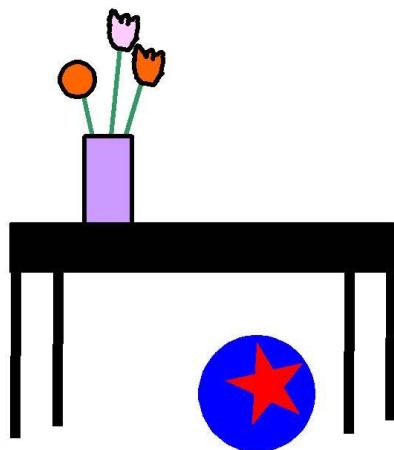
## Clue Eye Spy

Clue Eye Spy is designed to improve your child's observation ability and problem solving skills. The game uses clues or object colour rather than letters to aid in the guessing of the mysterious object. Clue Eye Spy is simpler for younger children than the traditional version and is a great way to increase your child's awareness of his/her surroundings.

This is a game with which many people are familiar but if you have never played it before you simply use the words "I spy with my little eye something that ....." Normally the I Spyer would choose to describe an item in the immediate vicinity such as "something that is big and blue" or "something which we eat for lunch" and the guesser would try to guess the object without further clues as they should be able to see the object clearly. To expand upon this activity you could broaden the subject area beyond the immediate vicinity and ask your little one to use both their memory and their imagination to place the Eye Spy Game in various locations. For example the I Spyer could say "I spy with my little eye something with a long neck which lives at the zoo" and the guesser would obviously guess a giraffe. Alternately you may express the location out loud for example "Imagine if we were in the bathroom and I spy something which is yellow and says quack".

**Classification, Size, Position  
and Direction**

Use pieces of paper to separate into groups e.g. big/small, heavy/light, floats/sinks, long/short, top/middle/bottom, over/ under, red/green. Using any household object (see below) ask the child to place them in the correct group.



Under/Over. Place objects under the table and over the table.

### Other Activities

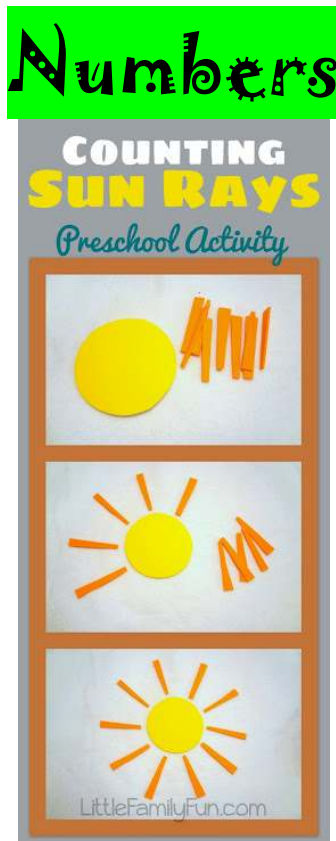
- Jump in and out of a hoop.
- Stand on a small step, stand off a small step.
- Spot big birds and small birds.
- Go up a slide and down the slide.

### What's in the Bag? A Classification Game

#### What You Need:

- A paper bag
  - An assortment of familiar household items: silverware, keys, pens, etc.
1. Secretly place an everyday item in a paper bag and then give different clues to your child, who will then try to guess the item. Too often we don't

- give kids enough thinking time when we ask them for an answer. So be sure to allow them a minute or two between each clue for reflection.
- Let's say you choose to hide your favourite cooking spoon. You might say "It is made out of wood..... I keep it in the kitchen..... I use it to stir the lemonade.....Do you have a guess?" If your child gives an incorrect answer, then repeat the clues, leaving time for thinking between each statement, and then add more clues until the correct answer has been reached.
  - Once your child has guessed correctly, give him the bag and let him look inside. They get a big kick out of seeing the object in person.



Cut out a round shape for the sun and up to 10 "Rays". Make the rays quite large so that little hands can place them on the sun. Stick the sun to a piece of paper. Ask the child to put different numbers of rays on the sun (do not stick down).  
E.g."Put 2 rays on the sun" "Put 5 rays on the sun"

### **Math Muffin Tins**

Preschool children recognize numbers, count and sort. Materials: Cupcake paper liners, felt tip marker, poker chips or anything they can count and sort.

Description: With a texta, on the muffin liners write numbers 1-10 and then have the kids count and sort that many items into each liner. You can use any items you like e.g. buttons, Lego pieces, matchsticks etc.

### **Scavenger Hunt**

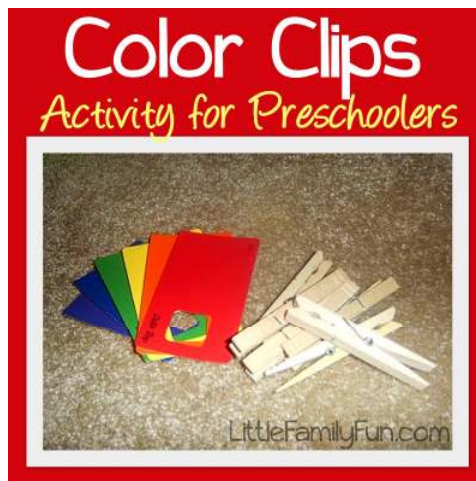
Send your child on a scavenger hunt in the house. Ask them to count specific items such as the number of windows in the house. The list can have many

things for them to count including shoes, tissue boxes, rubbish bins, clocks and doors.

## Colours and Shapes



### Colour Clips



Get a few paint samples from a paint store, cut out small rectangles, and used double sided tape to stick them some pegs. Go room to room looking for things that matched our clips. When you find something, clip the coordinating clip to the object.

### Button Sorting Tray



You can also stick different colour paper (sections) on to a normal plastic plate if you do not have a tray.



### Supplies:

- Cards or paper with different shapes on them or you could use some ready made flash cards, (you can get these really cheap at places like Sams warehouse). You could also just draw different shapes on paper.)
  - Camera (optional)
- Have your child choose a shape and then hunt all over the house for something that is the same shape. If you want, you can take a picture of it, or have your child take a picture of it. (Later you could make a shape book using these shape pictures of things they recognize around the house!)

### *Shape Treasure Hunt*

Before class, hide many construction paper shape cut-outs in your house. Include every shape, and use a variety of colours, too. Give each your child a paper lunch-sized bag with a shape drawn or glued to the outside. Then, give your child time to go on a treasure hunt to search for their matches. Have them put their matches in their paper bags

# Motor Skills

## Shadow Tracing



Find a sunny spot; stand still in a pose, ask your child to draw around your shadow with chalk. Repeat with the adult drawing the child's shadow.

## Tower Construction



How many plastic cups can you stack?

## Playdough

Get out some some biscuit cutters, a small rolling pin and add some plastic non-serrated knives. Some children's toys stores also sell Playdough syringes that you can fill with Playdough and squeeze out the other side.

### Uncooked Play Dough

2 cups of plain flour  
4 tablespoons of 'cream of tartar'  
2 tablespoons of cooking oil  
1 cup of salt  
2 cups of boiling water  
food colouring

\*Just pop it all in a mixing bowl and mix!

\*Try different things in such as glitter and sand. Just be careful you don't put things in like rice as they tend to go mouldy.

## **Other Fine Motor Activities**

- Cut out shapes from cardboard (circle, square, etc.) and let your child trace them.
- Using toothpicks to make designs in play dough.
- Give your preschooler pair of tweezers. Provide two bowls with small items. Challenge them to get all the items from one bowl to another using only the tweezers.
- Tearing newspaper into strips and then crumpling them into balls.
- Lacing and sewing activities such as stringing beads and making dried pasta necklaces.
- Using eye droppers to "pick up" water.
- Play with Lego's, miniature cars, small blocks, action figures, and other small toys.
- Puzzles



## **Kids Sewing Cards**

- Paper plates or cardboard pictures
  - String or shoe lace
  - Hole punch or skewer

Make a number of holes around the outside of the cardboard shape or plate. Tie a knot in the end of the paper plate and have your little one thread the string in and out of the holes. Once they thread all the holes they can pull the string out and start again.

## **Other Gross Motor Activities**

- A gentle game of tug of war with a scarf.
- Obstacle course (see below)
- Throwing and catching a beanbag/soft ball. Try different ways e.g. sitting, squatting, on one leg, over the head. Throw into a box or washing basket.
- Balancing: Have your child walk on a piece of string or tape, a low beam or plank at the playground, or a homemade balance beam.



- Wheelbarrow walk, crabwalk, skipping, hopping, jumping.
- Playing pretend: Kids boost motor skills when they use their bodies to become waddling ducks, stiff-legged robots, galloping horses, and soaring planes— whatever their imagination conceives!
- Riding, bikes, tricycles, scooters, and other ride-on toys; pulling wagons or pushing large trucks, doll strollers, or shopping carts.
- Playing tag or other classic backyard games, such as Follow the Leader, Red Light/Green Light, or Simon Says (avoid or modify games that force kids to sit still or to be eliminated from play, such as Duck, Duck Goose or musical chairs).

## **Missions**

For this very basic activity you are going to be the Army Major setting a mission for your little one to complete. To be able to complete the mission successfully you little one must see how much of the information they can remember and how accurately they can perform the tasks in the correct order. As an example your little one's mission - should they choose to accept it - may be to run to the tall tree, jump up and down on their right foot four times and pick 3 daisy flowers before coming to you to give you a kiss.

Extension: As your little one completes a number of successful missions you may wish to increase the number of steps in their mission or let them have a turn at setting the missions and you can try to carry them out.

## **Obstacle Course**

Find things in the backyard (or inside) to make an obstacle course. For example a plank of wood and bricks for a balance beam, jumping into a hoop, climbing under a table.

# **Social Emotional Development**

## **Sit and Listen**

Sit and Listen is a language building activity designed to improve your little one's sense of hearing and language skills. It is designed to help your child discover just how much more is going on in the world around them. It will broaden your child's awareness of the world they live in. A discussion of the sounds you each hear will also assist in language development and an ability to articulate that which was heard.

This is a very relaxing activity in which you both need to both sit still and silent for about thirty seconds and just listen to the world around you. You are both trying to hear as many different things as you can be they cars, people, airplanes, water running, the wind in the trees or any other myriad of daily sounds. After the allotted time is up have a chat about what you could hear. It is a good idea to ask

your little one some open ended questions to promote their language development, such as: What were the loudest sounds you heard? What were the closest sounds you heard? How many cars did you hear? How far away do you think that barking dog might live? What makes you think that? What sounds did you hear which you did not expect to hear? Note: As an extension activity you may wish to draw a picture of all the things you could hear

## *Play Board Games*

Many board games are a wonderful way to encourage communication skills in children, which is an important skill needed for social development. Play board games as a family and encourage preschoolers and school-age children to play board games with their friends to help them practice communication skills and learn cooperation.

## *Other Activities*

- Physical activities, organised sports, playing at the park, beach, camping.
- Hobbies, e.g. playing a musical instrument, collecting things, reading.
- Arts and Crafts. Doing arts and crafts projects increases children's self-esteem and creativity. Children need the opportunity to express themselves; this helps increase their self-confidence as well as providing them with an outlet for expressing negative emotions. Arts and crafts projects help encourage creativity and imagination, which give children the confidence to solve problems independently.
- Join a playgroup, have children over for play dates, visit relatives and friends.
- Role playing, dress-ups and puppets.

## *Great Websites*

[http://www.aplaceofourown.org/find\\_activities.php?skill=8](http://www.aplaceofourown.org/find_activities.php?skill=8)

<http://fun.familyeducation.com/games/33076.html>

<http://bestappsforkids.com/category/uncategorized/>

<http://www.shirleys-preschool-activities.com/rhymes.html>

<http://first-school.ws/>

<http://www.kidspot.com.au/section+14+Preschool.htm>

<http://preschoolactivitybox.com/>

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/categories/preschool.shtml>

<http://www.education.com/activity/preschool/>

<http://www.teachersandfamilies.com/open/ps-themes.html>

<http://www.aussieeducator.org.au/resources/teaching/earlylearningresources.html>

(this one has lots of links to other sites)