

Name Recognition

- Make a few individual word cards, one with your child's first name. Other words might include: names of people the child knows, days of the week, colors, shapes, etc.
- Hide the cards around the room (using a level of difficulty appropriate to the child).
- Have your child search for his/her name.

Follow-up Activities (as appropriate for your child's age/developmental level):

- Together, form the letters of his/her name with playdough (see recipe below).
- Draw letters of the name in flour, sugar, sand or other fine powder.
- Make individual cards with the letters of your child's name. Have him/her search for the letters and put them in the correct order to spell the name.
- Repeat the activities with the last name.

Small Motor - Scissors

- Playdough & Scissors - cutting playdough helps build muscle strength.
- Give your child pieces of foil, construction paper, old magazines or catalogs, etc.

Scissor grip: thumb in small hole, "helper fingers" in larger hole, thumb on top

Help your child learn to turn the paper (not the scissors) keeping the scissors pointing away from him/her.

(Hint: If your child needs help with the open/close process, pretend that the scissors are an alligator chomping on the paper. If your child is ready/able to cut lines you can pretend that the lines are its food.)

Opposites

Act out these opposites:

- Tall/Short
- Open/Close (eyes, mouth, hands, door...)
- In/Out
- High/Low
- Fast/Slow
- Loud/Quiet (clap hands, stamp feet...)
- Big/Little
- Dark/Light (Light switch)
- On/Off
- Top/Bottom
- Near/Far

Look for examples of these opposites:

- New/Old
- Clean/Dirty
- Top/Bottom
- Black/White
- Crooked/Straight
- Hard/Soft
- Wet/Dry
- Smooth/Rough or Bumpy

Follow-up Activity: How many of the opposite pairs can your child remember and repeat?

Number Recognition (numbers 0-5, 0-10, 0-15, 0-20, as appropriate)

- Number Memory: Make a set of cards, or use cards from a deck.
- Use between 6 and 10 pairs, depending on your child's age/developmental level.
- Place the cards in a grid (4 rows x 3 rows, 5x4, etc.)
- Turn over 2 cards at a time and remove them (place each pair to the side, face up, if they match).
- Review the numbers.

Follow-Up Activity: Number Hunt

- Hide 1 card from each pair throughout the room.
- Give your child one of the remaining cards (or have your child remove one, magic trick style, from the pile).
- Talk about the shape of the number.
- Have your child search for the match & identify the number again.
- Continue with the remaining numbers.

Playdough Recipe

1 Cup Water
1/2 Cup Salt
2 teaspoons Cream of Tartar
1 Tablespoon Vegetable Oil
Food Coloring or Icing Paste
1 Cup Flour

- Combine 1st 5 ingredients in a saucepan and heat on medium heat until hot but not boiling.
- Remove from heat, add the flour and stir until well-mixed.
- Remove from the saucepan and knead until smooth.
- Store in an airtight container.