

# GUESSING GAMES



## Let's Play "I Spy"!



1. Pick a few items from your pantry that your child is familiar with
2. Describe those items to your child
3. Encourage your child to guess what you're describing. Use interesting words to build their vocabulary
4. Describe the **shape** (i.e. cylinder for soup can), **weight** (heavy/light), **texture** (smooth/rough), or **color**
5. After your child guesses a few items, swap roles and ask them to pick something to describe while you guess!



## Don't Show, Do Tell

1. Choose an object that's meaningful to you or your child (i.e. baby book, blanket, favorite mug)
2. Hide the object behind a blanket/in a pillowcase
3. Describe it to your child
4. Ask your child to guess. Give hints and have fun!
5. Make the "reveal" and even tell a story about the item!
6. Swap roles and let your child have a turn



## "What am I saying?"

1. Choose a favorite story of your child OR objects at home; animals; nature; toys - as the topic of the game
2. Write the words of the pictures or draw the picture on a piece of paper
3. Fold & shuffle the papers
4. Pick a paper and try to draw/act/make sounds to describe it without using words
5. Have your child guess the word!
6. Swap roles with your child and let them have a turn



# Vocabulary Charades



1. Use either online word cards OR make cards with pictures & words together with your child!
2. Encourage your child to choose a category they like (i.e. vehicles, food) or familiar with at home
3. Choose one card and act out the word without speaking
4. Encourage your child to guess the word
5. After a few words, swap roles and let your child act out the word while you guess!

\* Fun twist – try taping picture cards to your back, then ask each other questions until you figure out the picture! \*

## Making it work for your child...



- If describing objects are hard, turn it into a **question game** – ask simple questions (is it a toy, pet? What color is it?) until you can make a guess
- For drawing images, you can draw dotted lines for the desired image and your child can trace on it
- Speaking in the language that you and your child might feel the most comfortable with

## Making it work for your family!



- Form **teams** with family members to make it more exciting and family involved!
- For **older children** - they can lead the game as the guesser/describer; or adding another step for vocabulary charades by having them explain why they acted out the word in a certain way
- For **younger children** – use easy words, model how to act it out; can even use animals/cartoon characters with special sounds or gestures (vocabulary charades)
- **Toddlers** can be in charge of picking items and bringing it to older child or adult to describe

Guessing games are great because it helps your child build on their vocabulary, understand others' point of view and practice following simple rules of the games. Most importantly, it allows children to have a fun way of learning and playing together!