Memory Games to play

**Kim's Game**

Put five objects on a tray, such as a pencil, pen, small toy, shell or ornament. Ask your child to study them for a couple of minutes. Put a cover over the tray. How many objects can your child remember? Children love this game and it can be played with more or less items depending on your child’s age and ability.

**Matching Pairs**

Take a standard pack of playing cards and remove the numbers 6-10 from the pack. Place the remaining cards face down on the table in eight rows of four. Each player tries to find a matching pair by turning up two cards. If it is not a matching pair, then the cards are placed face down again in the same position. If they do match, the player keeps this pair of cards and has another turn. When all the pairs have been found, players count their pairs. The one with the most pairs of cards is the winner.

## Memory Train

First of all tell your child to imagine going to the shops/ on a picnic / to the zoo. Start off by saying, "I went to the shops and I brought…………… an apple". The next person repeats the phrase but adds on an extra item, eg: "I went to the shops and I brought…………… an apple and a sandwich". And so on. You can play your own variation of this game. For instance, you could go to the supermarket to buy groceries or visit the funfair to go on rides. You could make it more challenging by going in alphabetical order.

## The Magic Cup Game

For this game you need three plastic cups and a small item such as a coin. Place the item under a cup, making sure your child knows which one it's under. Move the cups around and ask your child which cup the item is under. Your child can then have a go at moving the magic cups. You could even pretends to be a magician when playing the magic cup game and this makes it all the more fun.

Speaking Activities

**What’s in the box?**

Collect a selection of items from around the house and place into a box. Take turns picking an item and describing it for the other person to guess what it is.

**Give me 5…..**

Take turns trying to name 5 things in different categories such as colours, fruit/veg, vehicles, games, TV shows, things that fly etc…

**What’s better:**

This fast paced game simply asks kids about their preferences between two things –

“What’s better – banana or apple?”
“Banana”
“What’s better – banana or cheese?”
“Cheese”
“What’s better – cheese or chocolate?”
“Chocolate”

What’s better – chocolate or ice cream?”

Of course, you don’t have to choose food – books, TV shows, superheroes, sports – anything is fair game. Debates about different choices that children make provide lots of insight into their individual personalities and preferences.

**Odd One Out:**

Begin by naming three items – two that are connected in some way and one that is not (you can make this as easy or as hard as you wish, depending upon the age and interests of your children) and ask your children to choose the odd one out. For example with “train, bus, hair” or “yellow, rabbit, red”. Can they identify the odd one out?

**Sound tennis:**

Players agree on an initial sound or blend, say ‘P,’ and then take turns back and forth, each saying a new word that begins with that sound, until the round comes to a finish when one player cannot think of a new word beginning with the nominated sound. You could allow the other player to choose the new sound for the next round.

Simon Says

Listening Activities