

Brain-building activity: working memory

Memory's a skill. It's something you learn and can practice it in order to get better. There're several games you can play with your child to build memory. They'll help your child learn to hold information in their mind while working with that information. Practicing this skill will help your child learn language, math, and improve their ability to solve problems and think creatively. These games only require a deck of cards. Regular cards are fine, but you can also use large, colorful cards with pictures on them which you can buy at educational supply stores, toy stores, or online.

Quick Memory Game

Ages 2+

Place 1-4 cards face-up on a table in front of your child. Allow your child to look at the cards for ten seconds. Then turn the cards face down. Ask your child to use their memory to recall what was on the cards.

Matching Game

Ages 2+

There're many ways to play a matching game with cards. You can choose to match suits, numbers, or colors or even make your own set of cards with colorful pictures on them.

Lay out 4-20 cards face-down in a grid. Always use an even number of cards and make sure each card has a match. The goal is to pick 2 matching cards. Each player takes a turn flipping over 2 cards. If they match, the players remove the cards and puts them in their pile and then they get to take another turn. If the cards don't match, the player flips them back over and the other player gets to take a turn.

Sorting Game

Ages 2+

There're many ways to play a sorting game with cards. If you're using regular playing cards, you can ask your child to sort them by suit, number, or color.