

Memory games to play with your child.

Kim's Game

Playing Kim's game is a good way of developing your child's memory skills and concentration – both skills useful for all learning.

Put 10 things from around the house on a tray - it could be things like a pencil, an orange, some cotton wool, a toy etc.. Ask your child to look carefully at them for about thirty seconds. Then take the tray away and ask them to call out what they remember.

Another way of playing the game is to cover the things, take one thing away and ask the child to spot what is missing. You can put more things on the tray as they get better.

Matching pairs

Using a deck of children's matching picture cards - Ensure your set of cards contains all matching pairs.

Shuffle and spread all cards out on a flat surface, face down.

Players take it in turns to choose any two cards. Make a successful match and you get to take another turn. No match, the cards are returned to their original position.

Success in Memory relies upon children remembering where they have seen each picture in previous turns – both those and those of the other players.

The winner is the person who has matched the most pairs.

I went shopping...

The aim of the game is to remember as many items purchased at the shops as possible!

The first player starts the game by saying, "I went shopping and bought a _____," identifying an item they would buy.

The second player continues, "I went shopping and bought a (names the first player's item) and a _____ (adding a new item to the list)."

Players continue taking turns to remember the items purchased in order as the list gets longer and longer. The winner is the last person who can correctly name all of the items in sequence.

The magic cup game

Place three identical, plastic cups in a line on the table, rim down. Place a pom pom or small rubber ball under one cup, allowing your child to see which cup the pom pom/ball is under. Shuffle the cups around by sliding them across the table, switching their positions quickly back and forth and all around. Once you have stopped moving the cups ask your child to identify which cup the ball is now under.