

Brain builders for your child

36 - 48 months



Silly Song

Turn a familiar tune into a “Silly Song.” Change a word in a song your child knows well and see if they notice. Stretch the moment by asking why that doesn’t work. Can they take a turn to add a silly twist to the song?

Brainy Background™

Your child must listen closely and use their memory to recall the words to songs when you play this game. They’re also playing with what’s real and what isn’t—important concepts for understanding how the world works.

Tip # 596 

Finger Marker

While waiting, draw a shape (like a circle or a wiggly line), using your fingertip on your child’s open palm. Can they name it? Repeat the same shape until they can guess what it is. Take turns back and forth, drawing and guessing shapes.

Brainy Background™

When you play “Finger Marker,” you give your child a chance to put together what they know about how shapes look with how shapes feel. It’s a new and fun way to learn shapes through the sense of touch!

Tip #220  



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Letter Shapes

Encourage your child to point out letters on signs. Chat about the shapes of the letters. Is the letter A pointy like a triangle? What about the letter O? How many letters of the alphabet can you find? Enjoy describing their Letter Shapes.

Brainy Background™

Having fun with language and shapes helps your child enjoy learning. It's not just fun though. This game builds focus, self-control, and memory. Your child stretches what they know about letters and shapes to make new connections at the same time!

Tip # 253



Turn Tower

Take turns stacking things with your child to build a tower. Say, "My turn," as you stack one and then, "Your turn," as they do. Eventually, stop using words. Do they keep taking turns? Try to playfully break the rules and take two turns. What do they do?

Brainy Background™

You're showing your child the importance of working together as you build, while also asking them to focus to make sure the tower stays up. They're also using their memory to keep track of whose turn it is, without your words to guide them.

Tip #861



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