



Word Card Association Challenge

Match picture-word cards by shape, color, or category.

Helps Your Child Grow



Cognitive Self-Regulation (Executive Functioning)

Looking for different ways that word cards are alike helps your child shift between ideas and practice flexible thinking.



Vocabulary

Grouping apples, bananas, and strawberries under the word “fruit” helps your child understand that different words can belong to one broader category.

Steps

- Prepare picture-word cards that vary clearly in color, shape, and category - for example, an apple, balloon, car, pepper, rose, banana, watermelon, and pear.
- Choose one card, such as the apple, and explain that you will find a match in three different ways.
- First find cards with a similar shape, such as a balloon or ball. Next find cards with a similar color, such as a red pepper or rose. Finally find cards in the same category, such as other fruits.
- Point out that the same card can have different “friends” when the matching rule changes. Try another starting card and invent new rules together.

Tips

- Your child may find a new connection, such as “They all roll” or “They’re all sweet.” Unexpected links are signs of flexible thinking.
- After the apple, try starting with an animal, vehicle, or item of clothing so your child can discover more ways that words and objects relate.

Observations

- Finds related word cards while following different rules
- Groups apples, bananas, and pears together as fruit