

Turn-taking and talking: 3-6 years

Rationale:

Games that involve talking build children's vocabulary and understanding of language. Talking and turn-taking games also develop social skills. When your child waits her turn, she is learning some useful skills for play and learning throughout childhood. 'I spy' is a simple talking and turn-taking game that can be played anywhere and is easily adapted for older and younger children.

Age range information

3-6 years

What you need

This game can be played anywhere. All you need is to be able to look around and talk with your child. You do not need any special equipment.

How to do it

1. Decide who starts. You can do this any way you like – for example, you might choose the youngest person, or the person whose name starts with the letter closest to the start of the alphabet.
2. The person who starts picks an object within view. The goal is for other players to guess what the object is. The game begins with the person giving the first letter of the object as a clue – for example, if the first player has chosen a fence she would begin by saying 'I spy with my little eye something beginning with "F"'.
3. Players call out guesses until someone gets the correct answer. The person who guesses correctly first gets the next turn to choose an object.

Adapting for children of different ages

Your younger child can give her clue in a way that does not involve letters – for example, 'I spy with my little eye something that I can eat' or 'I spy with my little eye something that is red'.

Your older child might like to change the rules to make the game more interesting. For example, each person gets to ask three questions that have a 'yes' or 'no' answer before they take one guess. Agreeing on the rules of a game gives your child practice in negotiating and playing cooperatively.



Recommended Reads by the National Library Board

Recommended Reads

- [The Blissful Toddler Expert: The Complete Guide to Calm Parenting and Happy Toddlers](#)
- [Hooway for Wodney Wat](#)
- [Edwin Speaks up](#)

Engage your child with simple activities at home! Check out some of these things you can do together:

- [Snakes and Ladders](#)