

BELOW IS A LIST OF GAMES MOST EVERYONE KNOWS. YOU CAN DO THEM WITH YOUR CHILD AT HOME WITH VARIATIONS TO INCREASE LISTENING SKILLS AND AUDITORY PROCESSING SKILLS. MAKE IT FUN AND GIVE REWARDS TO KEEP 'EM COMING BACK FOR MORE.

Most of us played these games growing up. But, if you are not familiar with the way these games are played, you can easily Google them for instructions.

MOTHER MAY I

We like to start this game giving only one command at a time: 'Do one hop forward.'

We then increase to two and three commands as they get better: 'Do two hops forward, one hop backward and on step to the side'.

This also stimulates short term memory and sequencing as the child has to remember the steps in short term memory long enough to say 'Mother may I?' then recall them in the right sequence.

SIMON SAYS

This can be done in the same way as Mother May I. Start with one step commands and work up to two or three step commands over time. We play a little background music to help them with their figure-ground discrimination.

TREASURE HUNT

Kids love this one. You can hide a little prize or candy and make them follow verbal instructions to find their treasure. It can be done outside or inside. 'Walk forward 10 steps' 'Turn left' 'Go forward 5 more steps' 'Turn right' 'Look under the basket' etc. If the child is too young to know right from left, you could say, for example 'turn toward the window' or 'turn toward the TV' to give them direction.

HIDE THE THIMBAL

This game is similar to Treasure Hunt except you tell the child they are cold, warm or hot as they get nearer and farther from the hidden object. This way they have to hear the word, process the meaning of the level of nearness to the location of the object, and produce a motor response such as turning to another direction or continuing in the same direction. Add a little background noise or music and it is a very good exercise for them.

I SPY, WITH MY LITTLE EYE

This one is great to play with them when you are stuck at a traffic light or waiting in the car. You can describe an object you see. They have to use their Receptive Language skills to listen and process the meaning of each part of the description, then make a guess what you are talking about. Then it's their turn. They have to use their Expressive Language skills to describe something well enough that you can guess it.

FLOOR PLAY

You can do a lot for their Auditory Skills just by sitting on the floor with them while they play with their toys. I like to exercise their Word Recall ability by asking them to tell me what each of their toys are and what they named them. I like to ask them questions about their toys, play little story lines with them and have them guess the different toys by their sounds that I make. 'Brumm brumm' 'woof woof' 'bah bah'. Sitting on the floor with them really gets the child interested and engaged. Feels like play time to them.