

Games You Can Buy and Modify

There are some fun games on the market that are all about listening and understanding. With a few modifications, we can make these games a nice fit for our child and productive!

I Can Do That Cat In The Hat



You can get a good view of the component of this game on the internet. You will see that the game comes with fun, 3-dimensional props and three decks of cards. Each card of the 1st deck contains a written verb or verb phrase (e.g., “dance,” “take four steps”). The second deck contains a prepositional phrase (e.g., “with a boat”), and the third deck also contains prepositional phrases (e.g., “On your head”). You can see the object of the game. The player turns over one card from each deck and reads them aloud to know what they are supposed to do (e.g., “Take four steps with the boat on your head”). And the fun goes on!

With some easy modifications, this becomes useful and fun for our purposes.

- For nonreaders, have the adult read the card.
- The first time you play the game, only use Deck 1.
- Once your child is successfully carrying out Deck 1, only then play the game with Decks 1 and 2.
- Likewise, once this is easy for your child, add deck 3.

In this way, your child starts the game with turns like, “Take four steps.” and only move onto more complicated turns/requests when they show you they are ready.

The Guess Who Game



This is an old classic also referred to as a “barrier game.” You can see from the picture, the player’s view is private from each other. The way you “guess” the target picture is from listening to the “guesser’s” questions and answering correctly until, finally, the “guesser” has an idea and names the target picture.



The modifications here consist of swapping out the pictures that come preselected for the game. You can swap them out for simple items. For example, you could swap them out with pictures of some of your child’s favorite things (toys, foods, pets, etc.). A cell phone camera, printer, and adhesive make this a quick switch. You could take pictures of actual family members or of places your child likes to go (park, target, grandparent’s,

school, etc.). There are services on the market that actually customize this game! It is simple to do yourself. The newer versions of this game do come with sets of alternative pictures, but nothing is as good as personalizing it to your child!



Create-A-Scene or Colorforms

Do you have memories of playing with *Create-A-Scene* or *Color Forms*? Kids love magnets and things that stick! They also enjoy making pictures and scenes. These do all those things! The modification we would make involve turning it into a game where we tell our child what and where to place things. Remember, **keep it fun**; not a chore. Perhaps our child could pick the animal or object and then we could say where to place it! Or we could tell our child what to pick and they could place it where they think best! *Create-A-Scene* and *Colorforms* are affordable and fun!