

The *FIND GAME* and variations

The "Find Game" is straightforward. You start with simple language and increase by just 1 to 2 words as your child is successful. When or if you sense your child is experiencing some challenge, immediately ease things up. Happily show your child the item and then drop back to a level of language that was very easy for your child and end the activity on a positive note!

Simple, right? Yes, this is simple. However, the uncomplicated format lends itself to some specificity, should we be interested. When children begin talking, there is LOTS of variability; however, nouns tend to emerge first. Next, we generally hear verbs and then modifiers. Early location words like "up" begin to emerge. Let's say we learn that our child enjoys this activity, and we are curious about our child's understanding of more specific categories of spoken language, for example, verbs or modifiers (big, little, long, short, colors, etc.). We can easily adjust this straightforward format! Remember to use things and activities that your child likes!

This kind of activity lends itself to a large tray or a box or is even doable at bath time!

Here's an example for a child who is at an earlier level of language.

~If your child like letters and you are curious about modifiers~
Plastic letters are a staple in many homes with children! Collect what you can get your hands. The more variety of shapes (large/small) and colors, the better! Your clues can differentiate by modifiers. For example, "green **G**," "yellow **A**," "big **G**," or, if the child's participation indicates, even double up, "small red **B**."

Let's look at an example of clues for a child who may be older.

"Find something soft."
"Find something shiny."
"Find something cozy."
"Find something cold."
*These clues target a specific kind of vocabulary; modifiers (specifically, adjectives, in this case). You can always incrementally increase if your child is successful and having fun!
"Find something shiny and round."

Listen & Find formats are as old as time. Think, "I Spy with My Little Eye"! ☺. So, if your child enjoys this activity, let yourself come up with fun variations. Remember, these activities are to give us a bit of insight. They should never be a "chore" for our child! Our child's experience of listening and interacting should be positive! Enjoy!