

# Understanding Early Nouns

**Goal:** Carries out picture to picture matching of early nouns.

**Materials:** • 2 copies of *Early Nouns* cards

## Activity Instructions:

- Spend some time playing with one set of cards, looking at the pictures. Name the cards as you look at them so your child becomes familiar with the words.
- Choose 2 cards to begin with and lay them on the table in front of you. Select their matching cards from the second set and hand one card to your child.
- Name the card and see if they can find the matching pair and place it on top. At this point your child does not need to try to say the word. You name it for them.
- Gradually increase the amount of cards in play at any one time until your child can successfully match all cards in the set.

## Example



You say, "You have ***baby***, can you find the other ***baby***?"

Your child should take the picture of the baby and place it on top of the other baby picture.



**Hint:** If your child is familiar with the game "snap" then you can incorporate that fun element into the activity by shouting "snap!" when they place a card correctly.

# Using Early Nouns

**Goal:** Names simple objects in pictures.

**Materials:**

- *Early Nouns* cards (2 sets for game variation)
- Plastic chips or tokens

## Activity Instructions:

- Spend some time playing with one set of cards, looking at the pictures. Name the cards as you look at them so your child becomes familiar with the words.
- Lay the cards face down on the table in front of you. Turn one over at a time and ask your child to name it. If they get it right, let them place a chip on the card.
- You can vary the activity by using 2 sets of cards and playing a matching pairs game.

## Example



You say, "It's a . . . ?"

Your child should name the noun "**ball**".



**Hint:** Make it fun by making some silly suggestions, especially if you need to help your child when they get stuck. For example you could say "It's a... **sausage!** Am I right?" "Oh no, silly me, it's a **ball**".

# Understanding Early Nouns by Function

**Goal:** Points to pictures described by their use.

**Materials:**

- *Early Nouns* cards
- Plastic chips or tokens
- Written cue cards

## Activity Instructions:

- Choose 4 noun pictures from the *Early Nouns* cards that all have a different function. For example, you might choose **something we eat**, **something we drink**, **something we wear** and **something that grows**.
- Hand your child a plastic chip and ask them to find one of the objects by describing its function.
- Make it harder by including more cards and by being more exact when you describe the function. You can use the written cue cards to help you.

## Example



You say, "**Show me something we wear**".

Your child should place the chip on the picture of the hat.



**Hint:** If this task is challenging for your child, spend some time looking at the cards and sorting them together into basic functions. You might begin by finding all the **things we can eat**, **then wear**, etc.

# Describing Early Nouns by Function

**Goal:** Names objects by use.

**Materials:**

- *Early Nouns* cards
- Plastic chips or tokens
- Written cue cards

## Activity Instructions:

- Choose 4 noun pictures from the *Early Nouns* cards that all have a different function. For example, you might choose the **ball**, **the apple**, **the boot** and **the teddy bear**.
- Hand your child a plastic chip and point to one of the cards. Ask them to explain its function. You may need to do several yourself as examples before your child understands what is expected of them in this task.
- Make it harder by including more cards and by requiring your child to be more exact when you describe the function. You can use the written cue cards to help you.

## Example



You say, "This is an **apple**, what do we do with an apple?"

Your child says, "**We eat it**".



**Hint:** Once your child is able to complete the basic task, prompt them to give more information saying "Yes, we wear a hat, but when do we wear a hat?"