

HELLO PARENTS,

"I Spy with My Little Eye" is a fun and interactive game that children of all ages have played, for many years! Children enjoy exploring the world around them, while developing recognition, perception and communication skills. There are many ways in which we can encourage children to observe their surroundings, and make meaningful connections during play-based learning. This newsletter will provide you with activities that encourage children to recognize characteristics of their environment, as they inquisitively perceive their surroundings, while having fun!

ACTIVITIES INFANTS (3 -18 MONTHS)

WHAT IS ON YOUR TRAY?

MATERIALS:

- Various toys and items
- Tray

DIRECTIONS:

- Put various toys and items on a tray.
- Put your infant in front of the tray.
- Wait for your infant to choose a toy or item, and pick it up. Notice which toys or items draw your infant's attention.
- Make comments such as: "A pink bear! You chose a pink bear!"

[Click here](#) to listen to a song about I Spy.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

BROWN BEAR, BROWN BEAR, WHAT DO YOU SEE?

DIRECTIONS:

- [Click here](#) to read, "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?" by Bill Martin, Jr.
- While listening to the book, encourage your child to make predictions of what the next animal in the story will be.
- After reading the book, modify the line: "brown bear, brown bear, what do you see?" by adding your child's name. For example: "Susan, Susan what do you see?"
- Encourage your child to point to objects that catch their attention. For example, if your child points to a doll you may say: "Susan, Susan, what do you see? I see a doll looking at me!"
- Continue to make observations of your child's environment, and have fun!

[Click here](#) to read, "I Spy, Little Book", by Jean Marzollo.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

MAGNIFYING GLASS GAME

MATERIALS:

- Magnifying glass

DIRECTIONS:

- Play "I Spy with My Little Eye" with your child. Choose an object in the room for your child to guess. For example: "I spy with my little eye, something that is red"
- Encourage your child to find items in the room that have the same characteristics, which you described. For example: "I spy a red ball!"
- When they have guessed correctly, encourage them to use the magnifying glass to look closely at the object.
- Ask questions, such as: "How does the object look when it is up close?" or "Do you see anything different when looking at the object with the magnifying glass?"

[Click here](#) for more magnifying glass activities.



JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

I SPY BOTTLES

MATERIALS:

- Various small materials found around the house. For example: small toys, pom-poms, small alphabet letters or number magnets, etc.
- 2 empty plastic bottles (preferably with wide openings)
- Colourful beads (enough to fill bottles)

DIRECTIONS:

- Prepare empty bottles, and open the bottles' lids. Ensure that the inside of the bottles are completely dry.
- Have your child add the colourful beads and a variety of small materials inside each bottle. Fill the bottle with the beads and materials.
- Put the caps back on the bottles, and secure them with tape.
- After your child is finished making their bottles, begin playing "I Spy".
- Take turns asking one another which items are inside of each bottle.
- Encourage your child to describe each item. For example: "I spy with my little eye a shiny blue car" or "this is a fluffy pink pom-pom."

[Click here](#) to play "Secret Agent Shapes".

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

SEARCH AND FIND

MATERIALS:

- Paper
- Pencil
- Coloured pencils

DIRECTIONS:

- Draw small pictures of a variety of items on your piece of paper. Make sure you fill most of your paper with drawings. For example, draw: a small bicycle, a sun, a boat, flowers, people, cats, dogs etc.
- Colour your pictures.
- On a separate piece of paper, write down the pictures that you would like to be found. For example, "I spy with my little eye, a small green dog."
- When you are finished give the two sheets of paper to a friend or a family member, and ask them to play the "I Spy" game sheet that you have created!

[Click here](#) to play "Pirates and Treasures – find the hidden objects" online.



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and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

A TIP FOR TODAY

- Playing a game of "I Spy with My Little Eye" will teach your child new words, and review previously learned vocabulary.
- "I Spy with My Little Eye" is a game which can be played anywhere, at any time.
- Encourage your child to observe their surroundings while you are walking in your neighbourhood. Point out different objects outside such as leaves, flowers, rocks, etc.
- Draw your child's attention to something that they are familiar with, and further their knowledge by adding different characteristics to these items. For example, you may say: "I spy with my little eye a red car! Do you see a red car?"