

# Memory Magic



## Description:

Memory Magic helps to develop your child's working memory. Working Memory is the ability to store information briefly and manipulate it in mental processes. Memory magic is based on 7 magic tricks which illustrate strategies that will help to improve your child's memory.

## Intended Outcomes:

### To improve your child's ability to...

- Respond appropriately when having a conversation.
- Carry out instructions.
- Read unknown words.
- Paraphrase spoken information (e.g. repeating back information heard/ instructions to clarify).
- Answer questions and remember what to say when their turn to talk (in class, conversation).
- Organise themselves
- Problem solve
- Carry out reading comprehensions
- Carry out mental mathematics

### What can you do to help?

- Play games that use visual memory: Matching games are great for visual memory (e.g. Memory, Snap, Pairs, Bingo). You might also make up games that require visual memory (i.e. in the car recite letters and numbers on licence plates then say them backwards).
- Get your child to teach you: Encourage them to explain how to do a new skill they are learning and teach you how to do it. By working on their explanation it will support them to make sense of what they have learned and file it away in their memory.
- Play card games: This can support working memory through both remembering the rules of the game and remembering which cards they have in their hand and which ones have been played already (e.g. Go Fish, Uno, Crazy 8's).
- Games that involve repeating sequences of information, forwards and backwards: Using colours, shapes, food items, days of the week, clothes, animals, numbers, friends' names.
- Word list games: such as "I went to the shop/zoo/beach and I saw....".
- The game 'Guess Who?': The child has to eliminate characters by asking questions about what their character looks like using memory of the facial features.
- "Simon Says" and other instructional games: Give the child more than one instruction at a time and see if they can remember them all (e.g. "sit down, put your hands on your head then blink three times" or 'Obstacle Courses' where your child needs to complete an obstacle course to reach a 'goodie' by remembering the instructions to get there (e.g. 'Go under the table, behind the chair, and through the tunnel')
- Threading beads/building a block tower: Sit in a circle with a group/or face to face and each person takes a turn to say two colours that you both need to thread/build. Take in turns to tell each other two colours and slowly increase the number of colours to get to thread/build onto their tower.
- "Get the Loot": Put pirate hats on and pretend to be pirates, set up two pirate ships with pictures of items for the 'loot' and explain that each child needs to get 2 things from the other pirate ship to bring back. Get the child to say the things they need to get 3 times before they go and get it. Increase the number of items to get.
- "Picnic time": Give your child the name of 2-3 things that they need to collect to bring to a picnic. Have them collect the items and bring them to a picnic rug (you can use pictures of items or the real item)