Concentration / Memory

Skills you can practice with this game:

- Letter names
- High frequency words

How the game is played:

Players take turns turning over two letter or word cards from a set of cards arranged face down on the table. If a match is found, the player gets to keep the match and take another turn.

This game can be played with multiple children or one-on-one.

You Will Need:

- For high frequency words: A list of the words that your child is learning in school. (Teachers sometimes refer to these as sight words.)
- Index cards (cut in half) or squares of paper.

Preparation:

Print the words or letters that your child needs to practice on the cards or pieces of paper. Make 2 copies of each. Use 10 or 15 different words or letters for the game, or a smaller number for children who are just learning the game. If your child knows only a few letters or words, you can use them more than once. To make sure that the cards are viewed right side up, place a small dot on the back of each card at the top.

If you are using the game to help your child learn letter names, you may want to use both upper and lower case versions of the letters. For example, you could include two upper case T’s and two lower case t’s. During the game, T & T would match and so would T & t.

Shuffle the word or letter cards together and then lay them out, face down, on the table in three or four rows. Be sure that the cards are all oriented properly (dots on the back at the top). Also be sure that all players are seated on the same side of the table, so all of the cards will be viewed right side up when they are turned over.

Activity:

Players take turns trying to find cards that match. As each card is turned over, the player should name the letter or word on the card. To ensure that this game is fun, parents should be ready to name the letters or words as they are turned over if the child hesitates too long or names the letter or word incorrectly. (Remember that this is a game, designed to help children practice. It is not a test.) By simply hearing the word or letter named as it is turned over, the child will be getting practice.