

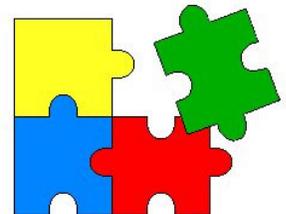


Purposeful Ongoing Play

Enhancing Language Skills Through Play

Parent Tip Sheet (P.O.P. Sheet) on... **Puzzles**

- * Find puzzles that match your child's interests and of varying sizes (4-piece, 12-piece, 24-piece).
- * Below are some ideas that may be used, but don't feel you have to use them all every time you pick up a puzzle. Just pick 2 or 3 that you feel comfortable with and can easily do.
- * Before you begin, look at the puzzle box illustrating the object or scene portrayed on the puzzle and talk about what you see together. Do more than just naming the object/scene, describe it by highlighting the details.
- * As you lay out the puzzle pieces on the table or the floor, count them and then emphasize, "We have X puzzle pieces to put together!"
- * As you put the puzzle together, talk about edges, corners, slots, top, bottom, sides and other visual clues for putting the puzzle together. Frame-tray puzzles are great for this because the frame is a neat built-in visual for these clues.
- * If your child can only attend to an activity for short periods of time or becomes easily frustrated, put together all of the outside pieces and let them do the middle pieces with your assistance.
- * If it's an infant puzzle where you place different items in a given slot, name each of the items as you put them in their places and then describe them.
- * Infant puzzles are usually theme-based (e.g. zoo animals, farm animals, means of transportation, shapes, alphabet, etc.), so it's a good opportunity to do a related activity that involves that theme. For example, after you put together a puzzle about farm animals, read a farm-related storybook, sing *Old McDonald Had a Farm*, or find a farm-related coloring page to do together. There are many wonderful websites that provide free templates for coloring and crafts.
- * If the puzzle picture or scene relates to something your child has done recently, talk about that experience together. What was their favorite thing about that experience?
- * Enjoy puzzling!



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