



SHIFTKIDS

towards knowledge

HOW TO PLAY AND LEARN WITH YOUR **SHIFTKIDS**

Welcome to **SHIFTKIDS**...we are delighted to share this fun activity with your special children.

Decide if you want to apply your discs as a frieze, at random, in a geometric design etc.

They look great in a perfect circle with a photo of your child in the centre.

Choose a position that is not reachable for your child.

Game 1. Teaching The Names Of The Alphabet Letters

There are many ways to do this. I suggest you start with .."a"

1. Point to the letter and say the name of the alphabet letter. Ask your child to say "a"
2. Move it somewhere else in the room next day; out of your arrangement, and point to it and repeat "a". You can even move it before your child goes down for a nap making a game of search to find the "a". Return it to its position.
3. When you are reading your child's nightly story touch the letters "a" in your book a number
4. of times and say "a".
5. Take the "a" away again and stick it on the kitchen wall at breakfast next day.
6. Before bath time, move your disc to the back of the bathroom door and acting and sounding surprised, point to the disc and say "a".
7. Continue this process with each letter until you have worked through each alphabetical symbol and your child has learnt all names of the alphabet.

Game 2. Singing The Alphabet

Can you remember the old song that most parents were taught at kinder or school?

Put your discs in alphabetical order and sing your child the song. If you have forgotten or never learnt this song you will find it on www.nigellazenby.com/shift-kids It's worth learning it as you can sing with your child and teach them at the same time.

Point to each disc as you slowly sing the song. Congratulate yourself by clapping and encouraging your child to clap too.

Game 3. Teaching The Sounds Of The Alphabet

Once your child identifies the names of the alphabet symbols it is time to introduce the sounds.

1. Using the same process as game 1. Work through each alphabet symbol.
2. Point to your "a" and tell your child that this letter "a" has a sound.
3. Say "a" makes the sound "aaaa".
4. Ask them to try to sound out "aaaa".
5. When they achieve this you need to reward them for their skill. Give them a cheer or a clap and tell them they did well.
6. Once your child is competent making the sound, produce some items that start with the "aaaa" sound; like an apple, saying the sound; showing the item and sounding out the word.
7. Move through your alphabet this way in sequence, sound by sound.
8. Continue to sing the song to your child and encourage them to learn it.

Game 4. Spot The Dot

1. Once your child is familiar with the alphabet song quietly remove one alphabet letter from your frieze without them noticing, perhaps before bedtime. Stick the dot inside their wardrobe or somewhere else they cannot see it.
2. Sing your nightly alphabet song to them, pointing as you go and then when you get to the missing alphabet piece stop and say " Oh dear, I think one of our alphabet dots is playing hide and seek. Let's see if we can find it before we go to bed and put it in his right place on your wall before we all go to sleep?" We should sing the song again and see if we can work out the name of the dot we need to find."

3. Enjoy a short search before asking, “ did we look in the wardrobe?”
4. Give a cheer when your child spots the dot.

Game 5. Hot and Cold Dots

1. Take a dot off the wall and hide it again, somewhere in your house on a surface.
2. Sing the alphabet song with your child and exclaim when you get to the empty space saying “oh no, a dot has been hidden somewhere. I wonder if working together, we can find it for you? Perhaps if we say that “hot” means you are going in the right direction to find the dot and “cold” means you are going in the right direction to find the dot, we can find it for you”.
3. Move through the house following your child and using the directions above until you get very close to the hidden dot and then say repeatedly “ hot dot, hot dot, hot dot”.
4. Cheer and applaud your excited child once they finally find the dot.

Game 6. Teaching basic Spelling using your Alphabet

1. Once your child has mastered the sounds of the Alphabet dots you can move into helping them to learn the basics of spelling.
2. We use basic two to three letter words first such as “, at, dog, cat, in, mat, sat, rat etc.
3. Form a word on their wall with their dots and say it by running the sounds together very slowly eg. ...cccc..aaaa...ttttt cat. Repeat it a little faster and then faster again. Explain to them that this is how you read by using the sounds the Alphabet Dots make.

Once your child understands the basics of this you can then teach more advanced spelling by incorporating and arranging different alphabet dots into words. Practice makes perfect but do not push your child to learn faster than they are ready and spoil the fun, interest, and interaction of these games and skills.

Game 7. Teaching Basic Geometrics

1. This is so easy. Simply by moving some or all of your dots into different shapes, you can teach circles, rectangles, squares, diamonds, arcs, triangles and wedges.

2. Create the shape, walk through your home, and then go on as search for anything in your home that matches your new shape.
3. Applaud your child when they find the right matching shape.

Game 8. Using your Image Dots

You can use them anyway you prefer;

- Placed above the appropriate alphabet letter on your frieze...?
- To reward you child upon learning the alphabet?
- As confirmation of the alphabet letter just mastered by them?
- As a mural?