

I SPY



Can you listen before you look?

THINK ABOUT . . .

Young children with hearing loss may have a tendency to rely on visual and tactile information instead of listening. It will take a lot of practice to help your child learn to really learn to listen and to understand sounds. This activity will focus on using the strategy "*auditory first*".

This 'I Spy' activity is an example of how you can help your child learn to focus on listening!



ACTIVITY

- 1- Using items gathered, play "I SPY" while focusing on descriptive or measurable terms. *Making sure your child cannot read your lips*, give verbal instructions - "I Spy" and then describe the object, for example, "something that is heavy", or "something small."
- 2- Let the child move and touch the items to compare as they try to guess which item you are describing.
- 3- Remember not to point or hint using facial cues or body gestures. Use only words to describe the items so your child really learns to listen for the direction. This will increase language reception and retention and retrain the brain to rely on hearing.
- 4- Keep taking turns back and forth until all the items have been described.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- 10 objects from around the house that are different in shape, size and color

PREPARATION

- 1- Gather a number of random items of all sizes from around your home. (Pots and pans, books, remote control, an empty box, marbles. You can use anything.)
- 2- Place the objects on the table or around the floor so every object is easy to see and describe

VOCABULARY:

- Can describe household items, including colors, the room where located, or how something is used.
- Can include concepts such as:

Short	Tall
Light	Heavy
Small	Large
More	Less

HELPFUL TIPS

- Try out new descriptive words like 'tinted', 'shiny' or 'circular' as you describe the objects. You can also use synonyms . . . for example, saying 'enormous, gigantic, colossal' rather than just saying 'large'. Expose your child to as much language as possible!
- To increase difficulty, use comparative phrases such as 'longer than' or 'heavier than'. For example, "I spy something that is heavier than the book." Make sure to repeat the measurable terms frequently.
- Rather than gathering items ahead of time, you can describe items around the house and, using listening clues, the child can try to identify what you are describing.
- Make it fun!

Special thanks to graduate students in the Listening and Spoken Language Deaf Education graduate training program at Utah State University. These pages can be reproduced for educational purposes.

©Utah State University, Department of Communicative Disorders and Deaf Education

