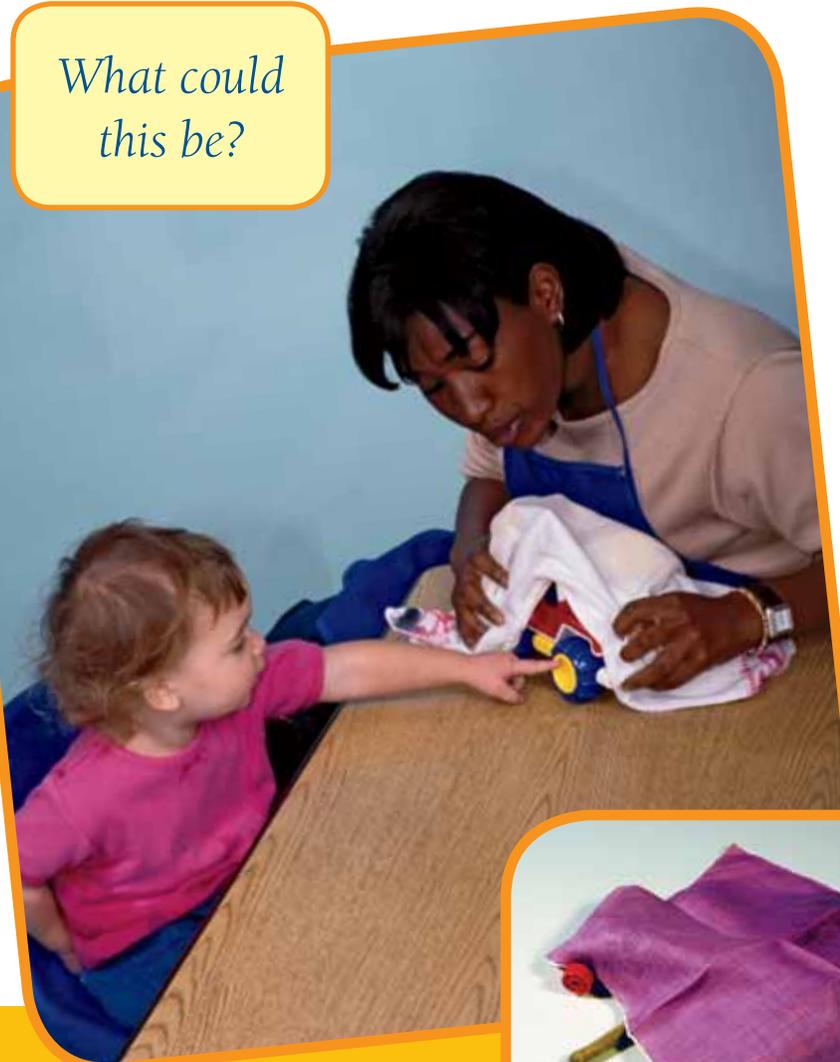


Toys Peeking Out

*What could
this be?*



Encourage your child to identify a toy by seeing just one part of it.

This requires your child to notice identifying characteristics and then remember the whole object.



*Can you find
the doll?*



Why this is important

Recognizing part of an object requires your child to remember the whole object. This process is called visual closure. Visual closure is used in many tasks in life, including reading. When she can say the name of the hidden object, she is expressing what she knows using her growing vocabulary.

What you do

- Show your child one familiar toy covered with a towel. Make sure a part of the toy, like the wheel on a truck, can still be seen. Let your child uncover the toy and play with it.
- Make the game harder by partially covering two different objects such as a doll and a toy car. Hide them under the towel and ask your child to find the doll. *Do you know where the doll is? Can you find it for me?*
- If she does not see the doll, uncover more of it to make it easier to find. Repeat the game until she can easily locate each item.
- Invite your child to use language during the game. As she chooses an object, ask her to name it before she takes it from its hiding place. *Can you tell me what you found? If she doesn't know the name of the toy, offer help. You found the doll! Can you say doll?*
- Give her time to play with the toy before repeating the game.

Ready to move on?

Add more toys to the game so that she has a few more to choose from. You can also add toys or household items that are less familiar to her and therefore harder to recognize.

Let's read together!

Hide and Snake
by Keith Baker

Create a Face

And now you're giving her a nose.



Talk about the parts of a face as your child creates one using different shapes.

Your child's self-image will strengthen as she learns how to create a likeness of herself.



Why this is important

From their earliest days, tiny babies recognize a circle with two eyes and a mouth as a face. Now your child can practice creating her own representation of a face. Using shapes to represent parts of the face helps her learn the correct places for eyes, mouth, and nose. As she gains experience making a representation of a face, she shows that she understands parts of herself and strengthens her self-image.

What you do

- Cut out a large paper circle and a variety of smaller circles or other shapes, and give them to your child.
- Point to the big circle and say: *Let's make a face together. What will it need to see with?* You can suggest some shapes if she needs help.
- Ask what the face needs to eat with. Let her think about what is needed before telling her.
- Offer your child a mirror so she can review the parts of her face. Point out that her eyes are above her mouth and the nose is in the middle.
- Do not change the face your child creates, even if it is incorrect. She will eventually learn where each part belongs.

Another idea

Think of other opportunities to create faces together. You can draw faces with crayons or finger paints. Playing with sand or play dough also offer chances to make simple faces together.

Let's read together!

The Wide-Mouthed Frog
by Keith Faulkner

Family Circle Games

Ring around
the Rosie!

Invite your child to join
in a family game.

Having fun in a group
helps your child feel
loved and supported by
his family.



Why this is important

Your child will learn how to get along in the world as he participates in activities with family or a group of friends. Feeling secure in a warm and loving group helps your child get ready to try new games. As he feels encouraged to participate, he will trust his own abilities to contribute to a group. Group activities help him learn how to interact with and be more confident with adults and his peers.

What you do

- Make time in your day to play games with your child and other family members or friends.
- Play simple group games such as “Ring Around the Rosie” or “Duck, Duck, Goose”. When singing or listening to music, form a band and invite the whole family or group to participate. Give each member a pan and spoon to bang with, or use whistles, bells, or horns.
- Invite each family member to make up a silly dance for the others to try. Hold hands with your child as you dance together. *Watch me hop around the circle. Can you hop, too?*
- Give your child a chance to invent a game for everyone to play together.
- Use family time as an opportunity to share love and support.

Another idea

Think of other parts of the day that can be spent together as a family. Family activities can include meal times, art projects, travel games, and quiet time reading together.

Let's read together!

I Like It When
by Mary Murphy