

## Wooden Peg Puzzle

### **Product Code: EY04177**

This is so much more than a jigsaw manipulative. You can slide different pictures underneath for the child to discover. The set comes with some images but you can easily make your own inserts.

- Place familiar pictures in the shapes. It could be photographs of their friends at school or nursery. You could have photographs of their family members.
- Place pictures of animals in the frames and use them as discussion points. You could have pets, farm, wild, etc. You could have just the patterns of animals, e.g. a zebra's stripes and the child has to work out which animal it is or match it to a picture in another frame.
- Put in familiar objects, e.g. chair, sofa, teapot, etc. and use these as catalysts for conversations. Where can you find these objects and what are they for?
- The pictures are useful for children who are learning a new language. Name the objects together.
- Place familiar characters in the frames, e.g. Goldilocks, the Gingerbread Man, etc. You could talk about them and read the book together.
- Play matching games where you have to remember what is under the shape and find one that has the same character object etc., but is slightly different. It could be 2 different teddies, hats etc.
- Place colours under the shapes and then find something of that shade in the room. Rather than just saying familiar words like red, use words like ruby and crimson in order to extend their vocabulary.
- Place pictures in the frame that relate to individual children's interests. You could even make it together.
- For older children have the letter and a corresponding picture, e.g. 'a' and a picture of an apple. You could also play find the matching picture with numerals and amounts.
- Children like snap type games, so playing find the same is a good way of getting them to really observe.
- Ask the children to draw things in the templates and then place them in the frames. What can you see?

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- Make patterns in the frames and play matching games, e.g. stripes, swirls, zigzags, etc. You want the children to really look closely as this helps pre-reading skills.
- Place pictures of real things which the children then have to go and find in the room. It could be a shell, a key, an apple, etc.
- Show pictures of fruits, vegetables, meals, etc.
- Have activity pictures. It could be an image of someone running, brushing their hair, jumping, brushing their teeth etc. The aim is to encourage the use of verbs, not just nouns.
- Have all the windows with the same colour but in different shades. You could have navy, pale blue, turquoise etc.
- Encourage the language of prepositions. Have images of eg. a cat next to a dog, a bird in a tree, a bird on a roof, a girl under an umbrella, a flower in a vase etc.
- Have things that are made of different materials (real photos). It could be a wooden block, a tea towel, a metal pan, a coin etc.