Matching Game

Age: Preschool-age (3-4 years)

This activity helps your child's development in this domain: Cognitive

What You Need:

- 10 cardboard squares of the same size or ten 3- x 5-inch index cards
- Jumbo crayons or washable markers

What To Do:

1. Divide the 10 cardboard squares or index cards into five pairs.
2. Have your child draw a picture of the same item on a pair of cards, for example, a heart on two cards and a circle on two others. Continue until he has drawn pictures on all five pairs of cards.
3. Mix up the cards and put them picture-side down on the floor.
4. Explain the rules of the matching game to your child: Each player turns over two cards per turn. The goal is to find two cards that match. If they do, then the player keeps the pair and turns over another two cards. If the cards do not match, the player turns the cards over and lets the next person try. The person with the most matched pairs wins.
5. Remind your child of the rules as needed, and praise him for following them.

VARIATIONS:

Use a deck of playing cards to play this game. For a younger child, start with three to five pairs of matching numbers. Increase the number of pairs as your child’s memory skills improve.