



Let's Go Shopping!



FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

Welcome to the MED-EL online resource center. We've set up this service to provide parents, therapists and teachers with ideas for follow-up activities that can be used at home, in the clinic or in the classroom. We hope that you'll find these ideas not only useful, but also a lot of fun for you and your children.

The online game introduces a variety of fruit, vegetable, and grocery shopping vocabulary. We've included sheets of pictures from Let's Go Shopping! that you can print and use with your child. These sheets can be used to make sets of cards with the different vocabulary. It is best to print these on cardstock or photo paper to make one or more set(s) of durable cards. The cards can be used for activities such as:

A Barrier Game

Getting Started

You will need:

- ◆ two or more sets of cards for use in the Barrier Game
- ◆ a table or other place where you can sit across from the child
- ◆ a low screen that serves as the "barrier" between you and the child. The barrier should be low enough to provide eye contact but high enough to prevent the child from seeing your cards. (You can make one by cutting a folder to the appropriate height and placing it on the table so that it stands up.)

How it works:

Each person has a set of identical cards. The "teacher" will be responsible for providing instructions on what order to place the cards face up on the table. The teacher will also want to place their cards on the table so that later, when the barrier is lifted, the child can compare. The object of the game is for the child to place the cards on the table in the same order as the person has said them. After all instructions have been given, the "barrier" is lifted and it is the moment of truth! Did the listener put their cards in the right order? The person providing the instructions can be the parent, teacher or clinician or in some cases another child. The barrier game works well with one or two children.



What makes this a challenge?

Two aspects of this game are potentially challenging for the child:

- 1) The child cannot see how the “teacher” has placed the cards, so he has no visual reminder of what was just said.
- 2) The child cannot see the lips of the speaker, so he is relying solely on listening skills and auditory cues.

Playing the Game

- 1) Give the child a set of 4 or 5 cards that are the same as yours.
- 2) Set up the barrier.
- 3) Place your cards behind the barrier out of sight of the child. Talk about or label each picture to be sure the child knows the vocabulary.
- 4) Tell the child, “I’ve got the same cards as you do, but mine are in a different order.” Then tell the child, “I want you to put your cards in the same order as mine.” Then help the child by saying, “I’m going to tell you what my first card is, and I want you to move yours to that position.” “Let’s try it!”
- 5) Start out by saying, “Number one is the _____.” Make sure the child puts the correct picture first. If the child gets the first item correct then give the instructions for the order of the remaining pictures. For example, “Number 2 is the _____, or “Put the _____ in the 2nd spot.”
- 6) After, all cards are placed, move the barrier and check for the correct order. Make corrections if necessary and try again. You can easily change your order when you try again.

Helpful Hints

You may find that it helps to write the numbers 1-5 on a piece of paper and lay it on the table as a target for the child to place the cards on. You can use more than 5 pictures if you think the child is ready for more. Try not to use less than 4. You may also find that it is fun to have the child put the fruit “in” or “next to” the picnic basket. You can use the pictures we have provided or cut out pictures you find elsewhere of “silly” places to put fruit and vegetables like under the couch or on top of a house. The more fun, the better!

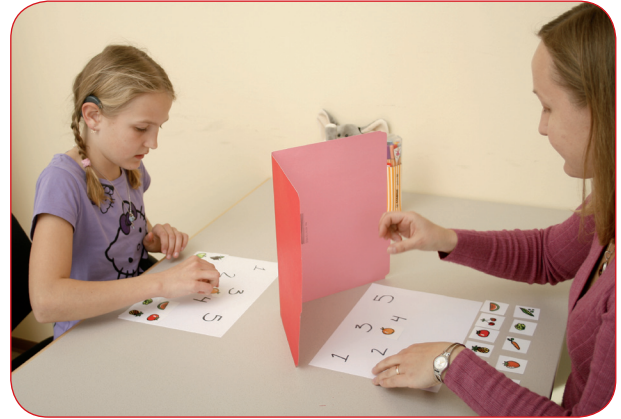
Children also enjoy being the teacher, so let the child give you the instructions the next time you play. If you have two children, the children can take turns giving the instructions.



Fun Variations



There are many variations of the Barrier Game that you can use for listening games. One commercially available version of the Barrier Game that you may already be familiar with is Battleship by Milton Bradley (rated for ages 7 and up). But you can also create several versions of the Barrier Game at home. For children who like to draw or write and who know right/left orientation, you can start out with a blank sheet of paper and give instructions about drawing simple things like a smiley face, stick figure, or the letter "O" in different corners of the sheet. This version of the Barrier Game can easily be adapted for older children who can write words or draw more complicated figures.



Geoff Plant also provides some helpful suggestions on do-it-yourself Barrier Games in the Listen, Hear! newsletter, which is downloadable free of charge at:
http://www.medel.com/english/50_Rehabilitation/Free-download/documents/ListenHear/Listen-Hear-04.pdf .

