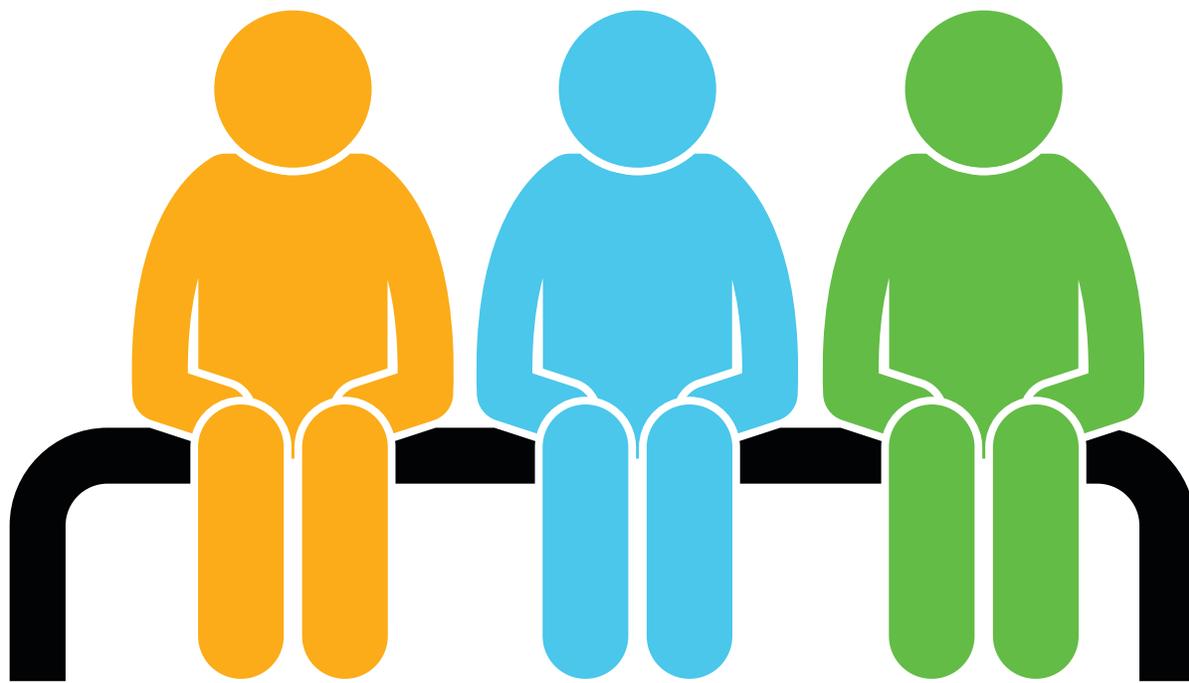


Waiting Games



**Pass the time with these
fun games while waiting
on line, for appointments
or on a road trip.**



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Rainbow Game

Find objects around the room in the order of the colors of a rainbow. First look for a red object, then an orange object, yellow, green, blue and purple. When done start over at red, but don't repeat any previous objects you found. How many times can you make a rainbow in the room?

Playing the car? Game #1 - Yellow Car: Everyone looks for yellow cars. The game scores as follows: regular yellow car - 1 point, any yellow pick up truck - 5 points, yellow Mustang - 5 points and yellow Hummer - automatic win! Keep score until someone finds a yellow Hummer but you could just do it for a certain amount of time. You can play this game over multiple car rides. Just remember your score and pick up where you left off.

Game #2 - Rainbow Car: Work together to find cars in the colors of a rainbow. You must do it in order. Therefore, first you look for a red car, then orange, yellow, green, blue and finally purple. When you are done you start back over at red again.



Quiz Questions

Children of all ages love this game and it is super simple. Give the children quiz questions based on their lives. Here are some example questions:

1. *What is Grandma's middle name?*
2. *How old was your mother when you were born?*
3. *What day of the week were you born on?*
4. *Name all of your cousins in under 30 seconds.*
5. *What country was your mother's grandmother born in?*
6. *What job does or did your grandfather do?*
7. *What time of day were you born?*
8. *What high school did your parent(s) go to?*
9. *Name your teachers from preschool.*
10. *What is your mother's favorite food?*
11. *What is your father's favorite food?*
12. *What is Grandma's maiden name?*
13. *How old were you when you learned how to walk?*
14. *What was your first word that you ever said?*
15. *What was the first vacation you ever went on?*
16. *Who is your father named after or how did he get his name?*
17. *What is your mother's favorite book?*
18. *What is your sister's or brother's favorite color?*
19. *What is your sister's or brother's favorite book?*
20. *What is the middle name of your teacher?*

You can create an endless list relating to specific details of your own family. Take turns asking each child different questions.



Alphabet Game

Collectively work together or individually and race to find words that start with all letters of the alphabet. It is easier if you are in a car driving on a highway or in a busy area for this game to remain exciting.

Begin by finding a word with the letter 'A', once found move onto the letter 'B', then letter 'C', etc. until you reach the letter 'Z'. Cross off the letters below as you go through the alphabet.

You can modify the game based on how easy or difficult you want it to be. For example, if you are in the car, then make it more difficult by not allowing the use of license plate letters.

To make it easier, look for the letters instead of words.

A B C D E F G H I
J K L M N O P Q R
S T U V W X Y Z



First to Find

Here is a quick, fun game to break up some boredom.

One person starts and declares an object to find. For example, the player one would say “first person to find a circle”. All the players look for a circle in the room. First person to point to the circle and state what the object is wins that round. The winner gets to declare the next object to find.

If in a waiting room, you can get very specific about pictures you see on the wall, clothing that people are wearing in the room, etc. You could try getting tricky by declaring objects that are in view but harder to find.

Mix it up by calling out details about an object. For example, look for a round, red object.

This game is fun to play in the car where you can choose objects such as a red mailbox, fire hydrant, flag, stop sign, etc.



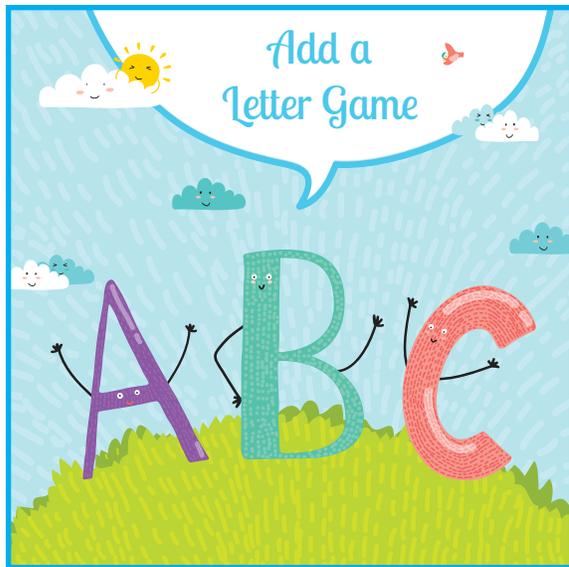
Would You Rather?

All you have to do is make up crazy questions offering different choices. The wackier the choices the better the question.

Here are some crazy examples:

1. Would you rather be super rich but you would have to live in a tent or poor but you live in a mansion?
2. If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, would you rather eat pizza or waffles?
3. Would you rather live in the future or the past?
4. Would you rather be able to time travel or read people's minds?
5. If you could have one superpower, would you rather be invisible or be able to fly?

Let your imaginations go wild!



Add a Letter

Version #1: ABC Add a Letter Game

Object: To not say the letter 'Z'.

Participants: 2+ players

The first person starts and can say 1-3 letters of the alphabet in order. Player two says 1-3 letters following the order of the alphabet. Player three says 1-3 letters again following the order of the alphabet. For example, player one chooses to say 2 letters - "A,B". Player two chooses 3 letters - "C,D,E". Player 3 chooses one letter - "F". Continue taking turns until you get the end of the alphabet. Whoever has to say the letter 'Z' is the loser.

Version #2: Word Add a Letter Game

Object: To not finish the word.

Participants: 2+ players

The first person starts by saying one letter. Player two adds a letter to that letter to start to form a word. Player three adds a letter to the previous two letters. Continue taking turns trying to form the longest word possible. If you finish the word you lose. Start over with a new letter.

What's Different?

Restaurant Play:

Gather a few items from the table or a purse such as salt shakers, sugar packet, fork, spoon and some coins. Player one arranges the objects on the table. Everyone else stares at the objects for 20 seconds, then closes eyes. Player one moves one or two objects just a little bit. Everyone opens their eyes. Can the players determine what objects were moved ever so slightly? Repeat letting everyone take a turn moving an object.



Can you find 10 differences between the pictures?

Waiting Room or in the Car: One person is it and freezes his/her body in a position. Everyone else stares at the person for 20 seconds then closes their eyes (EXCEPT the driver of the car who can not play this game!). The person who was frozen moves a part of his/her body a little bit (ie maybe opens fingers from a fist, moves hair, turns foot out, pushes up shirt sleeve, etc). Everyone opens their eyes and tries to determine what moved on the person.

To make it easier for younger children, try removing an object completely or a significant change in body position.



The Mentalist

The object of the game is to guess what one person is thinking. Pick a category such as numbers 0-100, letters A-Z, animals, people in the family, etc.

Start taking turns guessing what or who the person is thinking about. For the first few rounds don't give any clues. After the early rounds, give one clue per round such as whether the number is higher or lower, range of the alphabet, color of the animal, etc.

How quickly can people guess what you are thinking?

For the younger crowd, narrow the subject. For example, start off saying "I'm thinking of a brown animal". Let each person guess. If no one gets it add a new clue "I'm thinking of a brown animal that lives in the woods". Continue adding clues until they guess what you are thinking.



Detective

Pick one player to be the detective. Other players will be witnesses. The witnesses should stare at a busy wall or picture in a restaurant or a waiting room. After 30 seconds, the witnesses turn around so they can not see the wall. The detective asks questions about what he/she sees on the wall. See if the detective can stump the witnesses.

If you are riding in a car, the witnesses can study the picture below for 30 seconds, turn it over and the detective can ask questions.



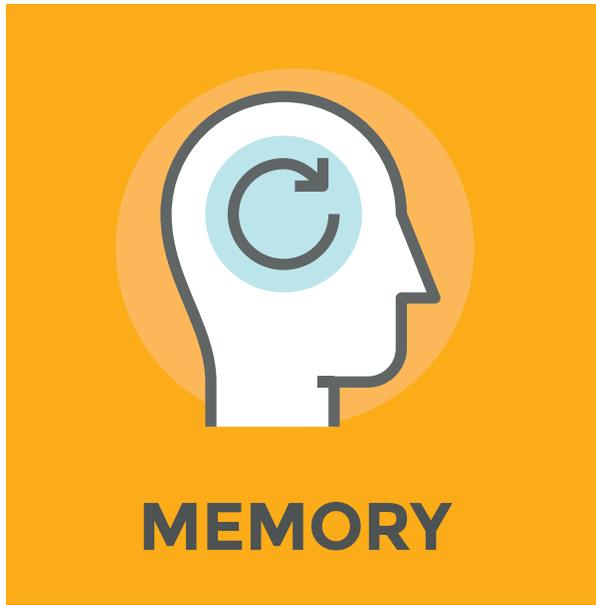


I Spy

This is a classic waiting game. One person picks an object in the room and states “I spy with my little eye something...” and describe the object. For example “I spy with my little eye something red”. Then everyone looks for a red object in the room. The player who finds the red object first is the winner and gets to “spy” the next object.

Try spying different objects instead of giving colors as a clue. Perhaps you can spy different shapes or textures. For example “I spy with my little eye something that is round” or “I spy with my little eye something that is smooth”.

When playing during a car ride, remind everyone that they have to pick objects from inside the car.



I Spy Memory Lane

This is a twist on the classic waiting game. Instead of spying something in the room you will spy something from memory.

For example, you will describe an item that you spy in your mind's eye from your kitchen, a bedroom, your backyard, etc. For example, you might say "I spy with my little eye something hanging on the wall in our kitchen". Everyone then guesses objects that are hanging on your kitchen wall. If no one guesses it, give an additional clue ie "I spy with my little eye something blue that is hanging on the wall in our kitchen". Continue play until someone guesses the object.

Try describing other objects from a favorite book, play or movie that everyone is familiar with.



Group Theme Story

You will create a story together about a certain theme. As a group think up a crazy theme or quick story starter (see below if you need ideas). Player one starts by completing the sentence "Once upon a time, there was.....". Player two then adds one sentence to the story. Continue taking turns creating the story until you can no longer add to the plot.

Want to make it more difficult? Only add one word at time. It is harder than you think to create a story with only one person adding a word at a time.

Some suggestions for story themes:

- a sports player who has a lucky necklace
- monsters from Mars take over New York City
- a sleep over in the toy museum goes horribly wrong
- a secret agent starts a pumpkin farm
- a taxi driver who witnesses a crime
- wizards open a magic pizza shop
- the school principal is also a super hero
- a librarian finds a treasure map



60 Seconds

Can you talk non-stop for 60 seconds on one topic? It is harder than you think. Grab a stop watch or set your phone timer and get started.

Come up with a topic or choose from the suggestions below. You have to talk in complete sentences. You have to continue to stay on topic the entire 60 seconds. If you can not stay on topic, the next person takes a turn.

Here are some suggested topics to talk about for the entire 60 seconds:

1. Pets
2. Movies
3. Presidents
4. Outdoor fun
5. Ocean Vacation
6. Plumbing
7. New York City
8. Elementary school
9. Garbage
10. Roller Skating



Reverse 20 Questions

This is a switch from the regular game of 20 Questions where people guess where, who or what you are thinking. In this game, everyone except one person decides on the where, who or what. Then only that one person has to guess what you came up with as a group.

For example, one person will be the guesser. He/she will leave the room or cover his/her ears. Everyone else gets together to decide on who, where or what they are thinking. Once decided the guesser comes back into the room to start asking questions. Everyone can answer the questions,. The person needs to try and guess who, what or where the group was thinking about by asking no more than 20 YES/NO questions.



Let's Debate

Pick two people to participate in a fun, easy going debate. Decide on questions that are easy to pick different sides. To keep it light hearted try to think of creative topics that children will be able to formulate an opinion.

Here is a list of examples:

1. Should children have homework?
2. Should you be allowed to have a pony?
3. Should children be allowed to get tattoos?
4. Should you be able to have a party with 50 people?
5. Should school only be for 2 hours a day?
6. Should you be allowed to eat candy for breakfast?
7. Do cats or dogs make the better pet?
8. Do computers or people make better teachers?
9. Do you want to live on the Moon or Earth?
10. Do you think vegetarians are healthier than meat eaters?



Categories

Pick a category. Taking turns, how many words can you say based on the category? You can not repeat any other words that someone else says.

Here are some suggested topics:

1. Pets
2. Occupations
3. Types of fish
4. Things in a movie theater
5. Things in a school
6. Types of shoes
7. Candy
8. School subjects
9. Things at a hospital
10. Outdoor games
11. Olympic sports
12. Types of dance
13. Ice cream flavors
14. Cartoon characters
15. Nursery rhymes



Theme Categories

This is a collaborative game that is more challenging. The object of the game is to make the longest list of words possible. Pick a general topic. Player one says a word that starts with the last letter of the category. The word must be associated with the category. Player two says a word, still associated with the category theme, that starts with the last letter of player one's word. How many total words can you come up with together?

Here is an example - **THEME CATEGORY: ANIMAL**
Player one must think of a word that starts with the letter 'L' since it is the last letter of the category. Leopard - dog - gorilla - anteater - rat - toucan - newt - tiger - rattlesnake - elephant - turkey - yak - kangaroo - ostrich - hawk - kiwi bird - dolphin - nightingale - eagles - shrimp - pig - grasshopper - raccoon - nurse shark - koala - arctic fox, etc.

Here are some suggested topics:

1. Color
2. Books
3. Gift
4. Camping
5. Winter
6. Tool
7. Toys
8. Gardening



Getting to Know You

You might think you know each other very well but people change all the time. Plus, sometimes you may be too busy to stop and talk about the simple things in life. Ask each other questions about everyday things. Take turns asking and answering questions.

Here is some suggestions:

1. What is your favorite holiday?
2. What is your favorite pet?
3. What do you want to be when you get older?
4. What is your favorite color?
5. If you had one wish what would it be?
6. If you could take one trip where would you go?
7. What chores do you like and what chores do you hate?
8. If you could live anywhere, where would you choose?
9. What scares you the most?
10. What is your favorite movie?



Outside the Box

Try to create questions that make people think about unusual situations. You are looking for creative answers.

Here are a few suggestions:

1. Imagine you own a factory. What would you create and who would you sell it to?
2. You have been hired to create a name for a new company. Describe what the company sells and the name that you created for the company. For example, the company sells cotton balls and you name it The Cloud Shop.
3. Imagine you have the choice to drink from a fountain that will keep you at any age forever. At what age would you drink from the fountain and why?
4. Imagine that the world is ending. What supplies will you take with you and why?
5. Dinosaurs have been extinct for years. What other things would you like to become extinct and why?



'A' My Name is Alice

This is a simple game that you could also use as a jump rope chant.

Player one starts at the letter 'A' -

A my name is Alice, my child's name is Allison, we live in Alabama where we sell apples.

Player two does the letter 'B' -

B my name is Brendan, my child's name is Bob, we live in Birmingham where we sell books.

Player three does the letter 'C' -

C my name is Christine, my child's name is Chip, we live in Chattanooga where we sell candy.

Proceed taking turns going through the entire alphabet.