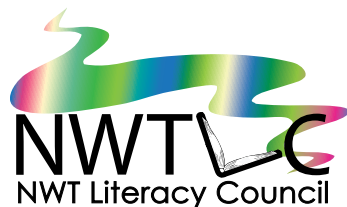


Activity Cards

For children 4-5 years old



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The NWT Literacy Council is a not-for-profit organization with a mandate to support literacy development in all official languages of the Northwest Territories. For more information, please contact:

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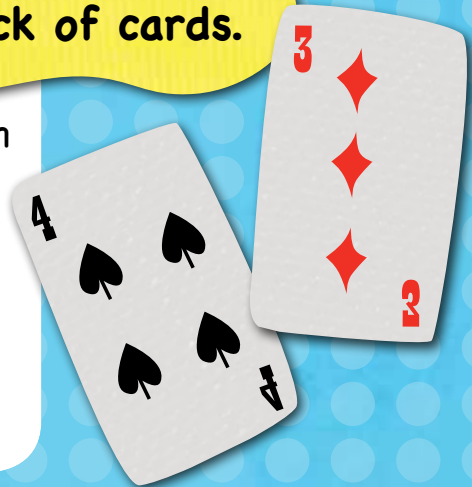
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Card Memory

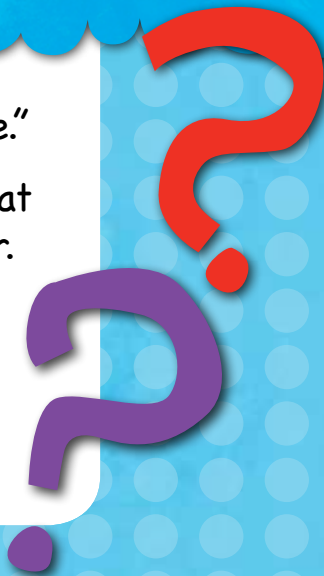
A matching game with a deck of cards.

- Put all of the cards face down on the floor or table.
- Take turns picking two cards to turn over.
- Match cards that have the same number of face value.



Guess What I See!

- Pick an object and say, "Guess what I see."
- Your child has to ask a question like "What colour is it?" and you tell them the colour.
- Your child can ask as many questions as they need to until they guess the object.
- Then it is their turn!







Textures



**Your child may enjoy finding different textures.
Ask him to find something:**

- Soft - a piece of fur
 - Rough - a piece of firewood
 - Smooth - a mirror
 - Scratchy - sandpaper
- 
- 

Talk about how the textures are different.

A is for Apple

Sing the alphabet with your child
and have them think of a word that
starts with that letter.

A is for apple
B is for bear
C is for cat....



Do You Remember?

How well does your child understand and remember?

- Read a rhyme or short story with your child.
- Then ask her a few questions about the story.

How well does she remember?



Memory Minute

How good is your child's memory?

- Pick ten things from around your house and put them in a bag.
- Lay the things on the table and give your child one minute to look at them and say what each thing is.
- Now put them back in the bag and see how many she can remember.

Memorizing

Have your child memorize something.

You can start with:

- His full name
- His phone number
- His house number and address

Or you can have him memorize a favourite nursery rhyme or poem that he knows.





Point to a Letter

You can teach your child to recognize the letters of the alphabet.

- When you are reading a story, point to a letter and tell her the name of the letter.
- Ask her if she can find another one of the same letters on the page. Start at "A" and work your way through the letters of the alphabet until she knows them all.



A



h

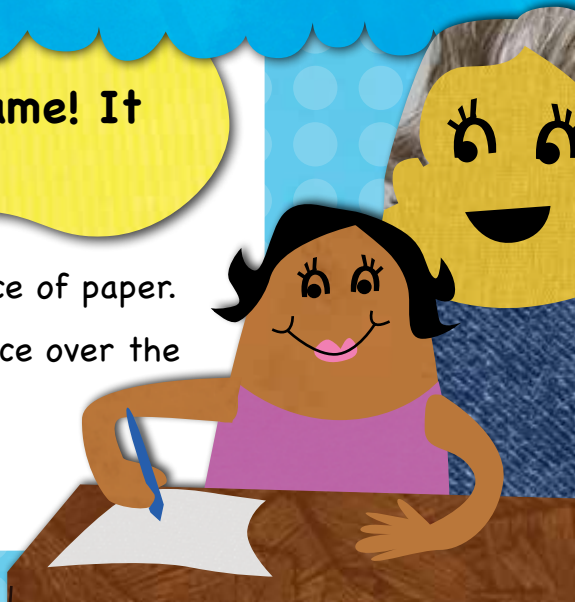


k

Writing Your Name

Kids love to write their name! It makes them feel big!

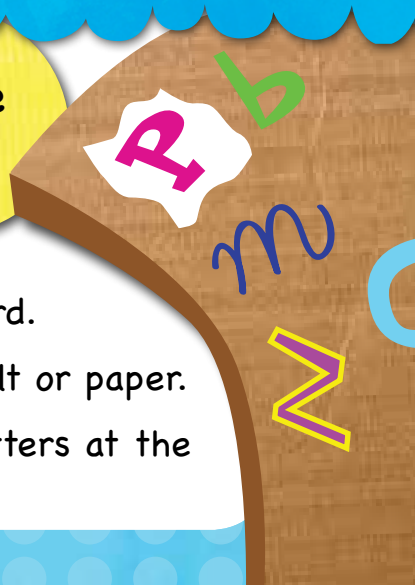
- Write your child's name on a piece of paper.
- Give him a pencil and let her trace over the letters of his name.
- When she is ready, she can try writing on her own.



Letters, Letters

Teach your child the letters of the alphabet by making letters.

- Cut letters out of newspapers or magazines and glue them onto cardboard.
- Make letters by cutting them out of felt or paper.
- Or you can buy wooden or magnetic letters at the store.



Reading Corner

Having a cozy place to read books is a great way to encourage your child to read.

- Find a shelf or corner where you can put all your child's books.
- Put down some cushions or a chair where you can both cuddle up.

Read! Read! Read!

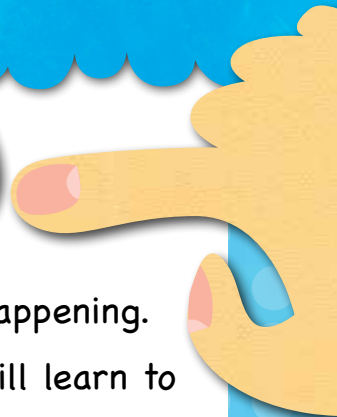




Reading

Here are some things to try while you are reading with your child:

- Look at the pictures and talk about what's happening.
- Follow with your finger as you read so she will learn to connect what she hears with what she sees.
- Get your child to "read" the story to you once she knows it well enough.



Greeting Cards

Kids love to get and give greeting cards. You can buy cards at the store or you can make your own.

Here's how:

- Fold a piece of paper in half.
- Have your child write their message in the card. They may need help with the words.
- Get creative - decorate the card with drawings, or cut pictures and words out of magazines.

Hi





fridge

Labeling



cup

You can teach your child new words by putting labels on objects around your house. Your child will learn how to spell many new words.

- Take a piece of paper.
- Write the word on it.
- Tape the paper to the object.

You can use your Aboriginal language too!



Chair

Write Together

Show your child that reading and writing can be a lot of fun! Write:

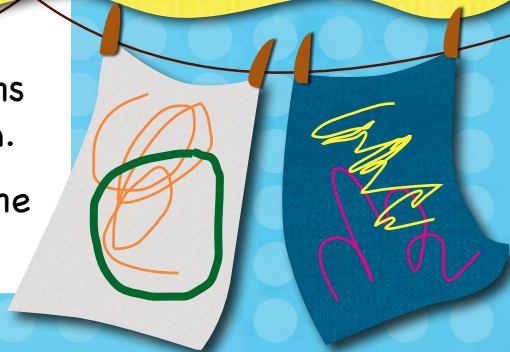
- A shopping list
- Thank you notes
- Poems
- Letters to family
- Stories about her day-to-day experiences



Drawing and Colouring

Kids love to scribble and those first scribbles on paper (or the wall?) are the start of their writing.

- Give your child paper and crayons to scribble, draw and colour with.
- Hang up his "artwork" so everyone can admire it!



Be a Role Model

The best way to show your child that reading is important is for him to see you reading! So be a role model! You can read books and magazines, newspapers, letters, and signs.

Talk about what you are reading. Parents who read have kids who learn to read.



Relax

Learning to read and write is different for every child.

- It will happen but it takes time – just like learning to talk and walk.
- Your child needs your help.
- Relax and have fun!





Make a Book

Make a book with your child.

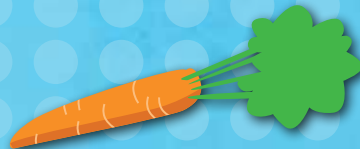
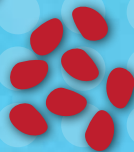
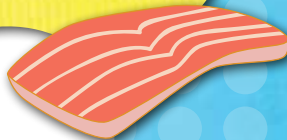
- Use construction paper, markers, and pictures from your photo albums or from magazines.
- Have your child add his own drawings.
- Start out with a small project that won't take more than 15 minutes.



Favourite Food Book

Make a book with all your child's favourite foods in it.

- Have your child draw the pictures and you write the words.
- You can also cut pictures out of old magazines.





Sally Snowflake

Try this game to build your child's imagination and memory:



You start off by saying, "I see that Sally Snowflake is wearing a ____." Fill in the blank with a piece of clothing.

Ask your child to repeat the line and add a new piece of clothing. The game ends when one person forgets an item of clothing on the list.

Maps



Make a map of your community or neighbourhood with your child. Include places like the park, school, stores, church, family and friends' houses.

Ask your child to move a toy person, car or snowmobile around the map by following your directions. Then get her to give the directions and you do the "driving."



Writing Bag

You can make a neat bag for your child to practice their letters.

You will need:

- A clear, plastic Ziploc bag
- Some chocolate pudding

Put some chocolate pudding in the bag and seal it tight. Now let your child have fun using his finger to make the letters of the alphabet.



Tell Family Stories

Your child loves to listen to family stories. Tell her stories about:

- When she was born
- When you were young

Have elders and grandparents tell stories about how it was when they were growing up.

