



Thinking Abilities and General Knowledge Activity for 18 to 24 Months

Matching Objects

Materials:

- Objects that match

What to do:

1. Give the child three objects to play with: two that match and one that is very different. You could use two blue blocks, one red stacking ring; two brushes and one comb; two white socks and one blue shoe; or two paper cups and one spoon.
2. Hold up one of the duplicate objects after the child has had a couple of minutes to play and compare. Ask him to find the one that "matches" or is the "same." The child may need hints (point to the matching block or give it to the child).
3. Cheer the child when he selects the matching object - with or without your help. Put your object next to his to show him how it "matches."
4. Point out how toys you and the child are playing with are the same and how they are different. "Blue block, you're holding a blue block. Here's another blue block."
5. Describe and show the child how things match during daily activities:
 - Hold up one of the child's shoes during dressing and let him find the other shoe when it is next to a pair of socks.
 - Hold up a piece of banana during mealtime and see if the child can match it to your piece when he has a piece of cheese in front of him.
 - Compare matching body parts (your foot and his foot; your nose and his nose) during dressing or doll play.

