

# ACTIVITY CARDS

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# WORDS ARE HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE

These cards were designed to build on your child's natural curiosity to grow vocabulary. You can use them anytime, anywhere!

## Spark conversation!

The pictures, words, and definitions will help you talk together about science, the arts, and math.

## Questions will lead you to other words.

As your child wonders about a word, you can help him explore other related words in the cards. One word naturally leads to many more!

## Put the words into action!

Try some of the fun activities on the cards to explain the meaning of the words and connect them to your child's experiences.



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# SENSES



You have five senses—sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch—by which you experience the world around you.



Which of these things have a sweet fragrance, or pleasant smell?

Which ones have a stinky odor, or unpleasant smell?



**ANSWER:**

One of your **senses**—smell—can tell you that flowers and cookies smell sweet. Dirty sneakers and old fish smell stinky!



**TRY THIS:** Play a senses guessing game with fruit. Which **senses** do you use? What does the fruit *look* like? *Smell* like? *Taste* like? *Feel* like? What does it *sound* like when you eat it? Play the senses game with other objects, too.

# PORTRAIT



**A portrait is a drawing or painting  
of an actual person.**



Which is a portrait of Zoe?



**ANSWER:**

The blue frame has a **portrait** of Zoe. Elmo's portrait is in the red frame and Abby's portrait is in the white frame.



**TRY THIS:** Be an artist! Sit in front of a mirror and draw a picture of your face, a *self-portrait*. Use crayons, markers, or even *paintbrushes* and paints. Look closely at your *image* in the mirror. What color are your eyes? Is your hair long or short, straight or curly?

# PATTERN



**A pattern is something that repeats—  
with objects that appear in the same order  
again and again.**



Finish each pattern. What comes next?



**ANSWER:**

In the first row, a toy car comes next in the **pattern**. In the second row, a lemon comes next.



**TRY THIS:** Arrange fruit slices on a plate to make a **pattern** (apple, orange, mango; apple, orange, mango; apple, orange, \_\_\_\_). What comes next? You can even make a pattern with utensils, napkins, cups, and plates.



# WINDY



When it is a windy day,  
the air is blowing really fast.



Which activity is better to do on a windy day?



**ANSWER:**

Kite flying is a better **windy**-day activity than building a sand castle.



**TRY THIS:** Observe the weather outside together. Are the leaves on the trees blowing, showing that it's **windy**? Or is it *cloudy*? *Rainy*? *Snowy*? *Chilly*? How do you know? Think about what you see, feel, and even hear.

# TUNE



**A tune is a group of musical notes that  
make a nice sound.**



Which child is playing a musical instrument?

**ANSWER:**

The girl is playing a musical instrument. She is blowing on a recorder.



**TRY THIS:** Together, play a game of “Finish That **Tune**.” One person can hum the first line of a familiar song. The other player can continue the tune. Then switch! Add to the challenge by changing the tune’s *tempo*—first fast, then slow.





Which shape is a rhombus?



**ANSWER:**

The sign is a **rhombus**. The traffic cone is a cone, the gift is a cube, and the pizza is a circle.



**TRY THIS:** Together, look for shapes everywhere! Start with *circle* (a wheel, for example) and *square* (a window), then move on to **rhombus** (a kite) or *octagon* (which is a shape with eight sides and angles, like a stop sign). How many shapes can you find?

# INSECT



An insect is a small bug that has six legs, two antennae on its head, and sometimes has wings.



Which of these insects can you name?

**ANSWER:**

These **insects** are a beetle, ant, ladybug, and grasshopper.



**TRY THIS:** Go for a walk outside together. What bugs can you find? When you find an **insect**, take turns saying its name. Buzz like a *bee*, hop like a *grasshopper*, and flutter like a *butterfly*!



# COMBINE



When you blend or mix two or more things together, you combine them.



What color do you get when you combine,  
or mix, yellow and blue?

**ANSWER:**

When you **combine** yellow and blue,  
you get green.



**TRY THIS:** Together, make your own artist's *palette* to put paint on, using a piece of cardboard. Then **combine** different colors. *Observe* what happens when you *blend* red and blue. What other colors can you create?

# PERCUSSION



DRUMSTICKS DRUMSTICKS

DRUMSTICKS DRUMSTICKS

DRUMSTICKS

DRUMSTICKS

A percussion instrument is one that you hit—  
with your hand or a stick—or sometimes shake.



What are each of these percussion instruments called?



**ANSWER:**

The **percussion** instruments are a drum, maracas, a xylophone, and a tambourine.



**TRY THIS:** Together, look for things around the house that make great **percussion** instruments. An empty oatmeal (or other) box and a spoon can be a drum, and an unopened box of pasta can be a fun maraca. Turn on some *music* and use your instruments to keep the *beat*!

# SIZE



Size is how big or small something is.



Which round ball is the largest? Which is the smallest?



**ANSWER:**

The beach ball is the largest in **size**,  
and the golf ball is the smallest.



**TRY THIS:** Measure the **size** of different objects in your home using a *ruler*, measuring tape, or an everyday object. For instance, use a boot to measure the length of the bed. How many boots *long* is it?

# FLOWER



The part of the plant that has petals is called a flower. Many flowers have sweet smells and pretty colors.

What color is each flower?  
Describe your favorite one.



**ANSWER:**

The purple **flower** shaped like a cup is a tulip, the bell-shaped white one is a lily, the one with lots of red petals is a rose, and the one with white petals and a yellow center is a daisy.



**TRY THIS:** While you walk in the neighborhood or park, play an "I Spy" **flower** game. When you spot one, notice its different parts: *stem*, *leaves*, and *petals*. Then play the same game indoors by browsing online.







Which animal is **gigantic**, or very big?



**ANSWER:**

The elephant is **gigantic**. The kitten, frog, and mouse, are not.



**TRY THIS:** The search is on! Find **gigantic** things around the neighborhood: a very big building, a bridge, even a tractor trailer. What other words can you use to mean the same thing? Try *humongous*, *massive*, and *colossal*.

# OBSERVE



To observe something is to look closely  
at it to find out more.

What differences can you observe, or notice, among these three leaves?



**ANSWER:**

You can **observe** that the first leaf is yellow and round, the one in the middle is green and long and skinny, and the last leaf is orange and has lots of points.



**TRY THIS:** Together, choose an everyday object at home to **observe**, or look at carefully. Look closely, for example, at a napkin. Are there any *shapes* or *designs* on it? What do you *notice* about the outside of a strawberry or about a whole-wheat tortilla?

# AROUND



**When something circles something else,  
it is going around it.**

How many cars are going around the track?



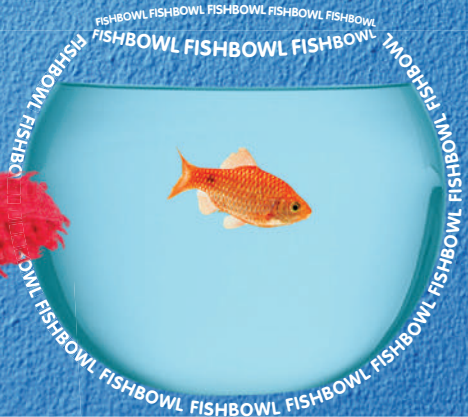
**ANSWER:**

Six cars are going **around** the track.  
Two cars are off the track.



**TRY THIS:** Play a quick game: Try going **around** a chair. Now stand *next* to it. Think about how you could go *over* the chair! Last of all, sit *on* it!

# TURQUOISE



**Turquoise is a greenish-blue color.**



Which objects are turquoise in color?  
Which are not?



**ANSWER:**

The sunglasses, necklace, and ribbon are **turquoise**. The bunny is not.



**TRY THIS:** Make a game of naming different colors around a room as you clean up together. Start with simple ones, such as red, blue, green, and yellow, and move on to more unusual colors, such as *bright, vibrant turquoise* or *fuchsia*.



# TEXTURE



**Texture is the way something feels  
when you touch it.**

Which one of these things has  
a soft and fluffy texture?



**ANSWER:**

The puppy has a soft and fluffy **texture**. The slug is slimy, the cactus is prickly, and the seashell is hard.



**TRY THIS:** Play a guessing game! Put some items with different **textures** in a paper bag (a *bristly* brush; a *soft, squishy* sponge; a *silky* ribbon; a *rough* nail file). Close your eyes and describe what it feels like. Then take a guess: What is it?