

CREATING PUZZLES

Collaborative learning is a gift for little ones as it allows them to learn while practising their social skills.

Language development, hand-eye coordination, problem-solving, Mathematical development, learning about the world, fine motor development

Begin with something that your child likes. For example, if your child really enjoys cars, buy a car magazine or find pictures of cars online and print them out. Ask your child to choose a picture and then cut it out for them. If your child is old enough, give them a pair of child-safe scissors and ask them to cut the picture in half. Then they need to put the two pieces together. Once they've done that, ask them to cut each half in half again (making quarters). Ask them to put the puzzle together again. You could ask them to count how many pieces there are now. You can repeat this exercise until you reach a number of pieces that is challenging but still doable for your child.

Building a story

With each round of putting the pieces back together, help your child build a story around the image. If it is an image of a car, ask what colour the car is, where the car is going, to whom the car belongs, etc. Be sure to keep your questions open-ended to allow for maximum creativity on the part of your child.

Colouring in

This exercise can be done with pictures that a child colours in as well.

