

GROUP PICTURES

Give me old magazines or catalogs and let me cut out pictures. Offer ideas for gluing the pictures on paper in different groups.

Ideas for groups: Animals, colors, foods, seasons, big things, pets, outdoor things, living things, things family members like, and so on.

The thinking part of my brain organizes by making associations with things that go together. It helps for me to think about how things are alike.

GETTING MEANING FROM STORIES

Read or tell me a story. After the story, ask me questions. For example: Ask, “What happened first? Then what happened? What happened last?”

Let’s do more: Asking nonsense questions is fun. For example: “Were there 100 dwarfs in Snow White?” and “Were some of their names, Charlie, Sam, and Alexander?”

The cells in my brain are most ready to make connections for learning language up through age four. It is important that I hear conversations, songs, stories, and rhymes, and am listened and responded to when I talk.

What If?

Create a discussion by asking me, “What if....?” Questions. For example, “What if the oceans were filled with Jello?”, or “What if dogs were as big as houses?”

Asking questions that need more than a yes or now answer makes me use the thinking part of my brain. “Closed questions” like “Do you like school?” limit my language development.