

# ACTIVITY CARDS

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# WORDS ARE 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.

## A yellow diamond-shaped road sign with a black border and a black arrow pointing upwards. The sign is mounted on a textured yellow background with two silver screws visible at the top and bottom.

[illegible]

**A rhombus is shaped like a diamond and has four sides that are all the same length. It has four angles, too.**





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

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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.

A large, detailed image of the Moon's surface, showing craters and maria, set against a blue background. The Moon is shown in a close-up, slightly angled view, with its curved edge visible on the left. The surface is covered in various features, including dark, flat areas (maria) and lighter, more textured regions (highlands). Numerous craters of different sizes are visible, some with distinct rims and shadows. The overall tone is a mix of grays and whites, contrasting sharply with the vibrant blue background.



TELESCOPE

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**Gigantic means very, very big.**





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?