

Developing Thinking Skills

Strengthen your preschooler's ability to recall information

Remembering as much as possible of what she hears and sees will contribute greatly to your child's success in school. In addition to talking to your child about experiences every day, you can do some simple activities to help develop her memory.

You can:

- Read nursery rhymes and familiar stories. Nursery rhymes are especially good because they contain patterns. Your child will learn to recognize these patterns. Recognizing patterns will then trigger your child's memory.
- Hide items as your child watches. Then have her retrieve the items from the places you hid them. As she gets better at this, hide more items. Or hide the items, and then do another activity. After some time has passed, challenge her to find the items.
- Play the "I'm going on a trip" game. Say to your child, "I'm going on a trip and I'm packing pajamas." Your child must repeat what you said, and then add something. Example: "I'm going on a trip and I'm packing pajamas and a toothbrush." At first your child may be able to remember only one or two items. Expand the game as she gets better at recalling.

Reprinted with permission from the December 2007 issue of *Parents make the difference!*® (Early Childhood Edition) newsletter. Copyright © 2007 The Parent Institute®, a division of NIS, Inc. Source: Lilliann Alice Noda, June Mori-Shida, & Nancy Chisato Adachi, *Off to a Great Start! Activities for Becoming Your Child's Best Teacher*, ISBN: 0-7802-4207-6 (The Wright Group, a McGraw-Hill Company, 1-800-648-2970, www.wrightgroup.com).