



COLOR SCAVENGER HUNT

DISCOVERY PLAY ACTIVITIES WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD



ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY:

Go on a color scavenger hunt indoors or outside and encourage your child to find things of a certain color (like red leaves, blue toys, or green cups).

As your child gathers items, help them count how many items of each color they discovered. They can also sort the items by other characteristics (like size, texture, or material), helping them to notice other similarities and differences.

Change the activity by handing them a color card and telling them how many items to find of that color. Or ask your child to predict how many items of a certain color they think they will find.

STEM LEARNING AREAS:

Physical Science: Concepts related to objects or things, what they do, and how they move

- **Structure & Properties of Materials:** Understanding characteristics of things and how those characteristics impact what things do

Math: Concepts related to numbers, patterns, shapes, and space, and how to use them to solve problems

- **Counting:** Communicating number words in order and matching each number to objects to find out "how many"
- **Classification & Data Analysis:** Sorting things into groups and then figuring out how many are in each group to help answer questions

WHAT DO I NEED?:

- Household items
- Color cards (see Visual Cues)

WHAT CAN I TALK ABOUT?:

- Colors
- Numbers and Counting
- Matching
- Sorting

WHAT CAN I ASK?:

- Can you find something that is (color)?
- How many items are (color)?
- What colors do you think you will find in our home?





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ADAPTATIONS FOR DISCOVERY PLAY ACTIVITIES WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Every child is different. Do what works best for encouraging your child's independent exploration during this suggested playtime activity. These are only suggested activity adaptations. Consider consulting your child's care team first.



Follow your child's lead and interests. Enthusiastically ask your child questions about what they are doing and what they like.



Answer your child's questions. If you do not know the answer, work together with your child to discover the answer.



Encourage your child to participate in the activity as much as possible. Praise your child's efforts and successes.

ENVIRONMENT

- If possible, limit background noise & distractions
- Wear sunglasses or hat if sensitive to bright light and going outside for the scavenger hunt
- Place objects within reach

MATERIALS

- Have child's assistive technology ready and available, including augmentative & alternative communication (AAC) device and/or power wheelchair
- Add additional materials, such as magnets or Velcro, to objects to make it easier to grasp, lift, or turn
- Ensure the color cards and their background have a strong contrast
- Use color cards of various sizes
- Labeling colors to help children with colorblindness find objects

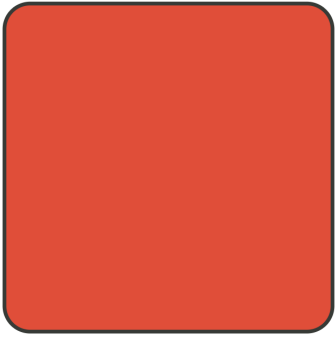
INSTRUCTION

- Simplify the activity beginning with only two color cards or only have household items of two colors within reach
- Use a variety of methods of communication (sign language, gestures) to meaningfully engage children
- Provide visual prompts to help the child communicate
- Model matching objects by color

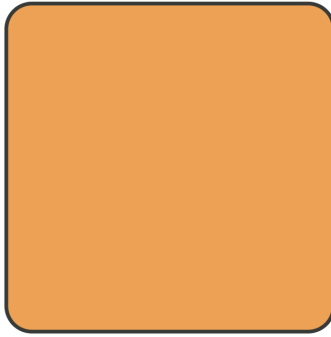


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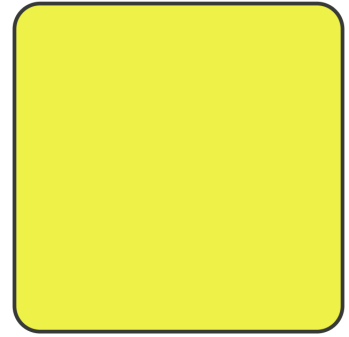
VISUAL CUES FOR DISCOVERY PLAY ACTIVITIES WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD



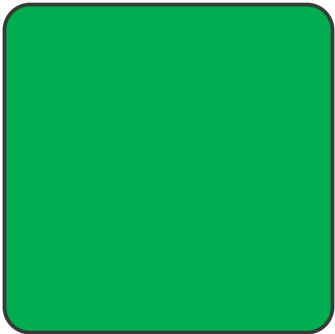
Red



Orange



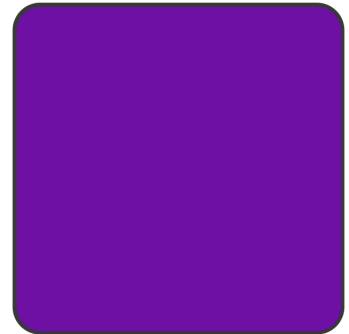
Yellow



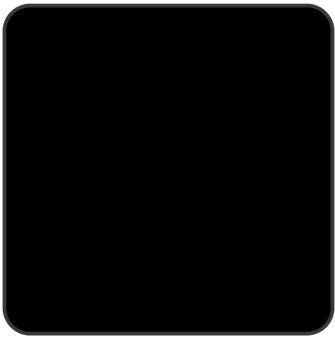
Green



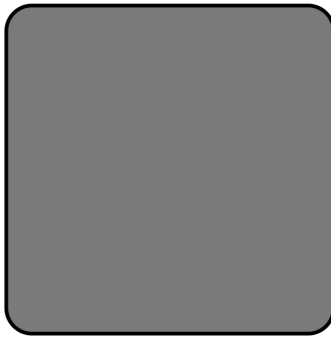
Blue



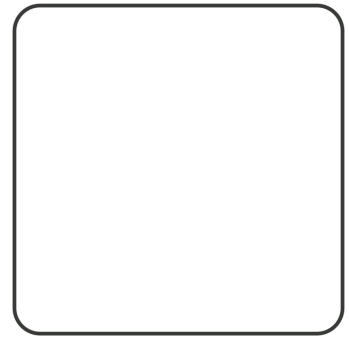
Purple



Black



Gray



White



Need more visual cues?

Visit [STEMIE's Visual Cue Library](#) or check out STEMIE's tips for creating and using visual supports with [A Guide to Visual Supports](#).



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ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR DISCOVERY PLAY ACTIVITIES WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY IDEAS:

- Play “I Spy” something [insert color].
- Build upon the activity to find objects that contain two and three colors.
- Collect the items and then sort them by color or another characteristic (shape, function).
- Take the activity outside and help the child find objects and guess what color they might be.
- Check out our [Storybook Conversations](#) for *Mouse Paint* by Ellen Stoll Walsh
- Check out these great books about colors:
 - *Colors* by John Reiss
 - *Broken Crayons Still Color* by Toni Collier & Whitney Bak
 - *How the Crayons Saved the Rainbow* by Monica Sweeney
 - *Mixed: A Colorful Story* by Arree Chung

