



Thinking Abilities and General Knowledge Activity for 18 to 24 Months

Symbol to Thing

This is a fun activity to help children learn that a picture is a symbol that represents a real thing.

Materials:

- Old toy catalog with pictures of the child's toys
- Thin cardboard or heavy paper
- Clear contact paper
- Scissors

What to do:

1. Let the child help you find pictures of his toys in the catalog.
2. Cut out the pictures, mount them on the cardboard and cover with clear contact paper for durability.
3. Hand one of the pictures to the child and ask him to find that object among his toys

Variations:

- A. Put the mounted pictures in a grab bag and let the child reach in and take out a picture.
- B. See if you can find pictures in magazines of other things you have in your home even if they aren't exactly the same, such as a clock, a rocking chair, a sink, a toilet, or a plant. See if the child can generalize from the picture and find the object that serves the same function in the room.

