

Ngā taonga tākaro

Make up your own stories and include familiar people, places and events. Some can be based on memories and others imaginative and made up.

Memory games

Memory games can improve brain functions such as attention and concentration. Games can be simple or complex, depending on what tamariki are ready for.

Secret sock – Challenge tamariki to use their sense of touch and their memory of shape and feel to work out what's inside a sock.

Explain and model the game before you begin. Lots of kōrero about shapes and textures will help their 'fingers do the finding'.

- Push a plastic cup right down inside a long sock.
- Choose three or four small items that your tamaiti is familiar with, such as a LEGO brick, a stone, a toy car or a small ball. Ask them to name each one as they put them inside the sock.
- Then ask them to reach inside the sock and without looking pull out one specific item you ask for.
- Or you can secretly put one item in the sock and then ask them to tell you what it is without peeking!
- Take turns guessing.
- Take it easy – they might need a bit of encouragement just to put their hand inside a sock!



You can use the same items for another quick memory game.

- Spread the items out in a line and ask your tamaiti to name them.
- Ask them to close their eyes while you remove one item.
- With eyes open see if they can recall which item has gone.
- Take turns guessing.
- As they master the memory game you can add more items.

Join their play

Watch how tamariki use their toys or items from around your home. Take five minutes to join in with their play. You can describe what you're doing alongside your tamaiti, but try not to ask too many questions. Trying to find an answer can interrupt their thinking.

Joining tamariki in their play allows them to test their ideas in a safe space with a trusted person. It also makes them feel valued and important which builds their confidence.



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