

How to Use Picture and Word Cards

You can play any game that requires matching pairs. Here are 2 great ideas!

Cross the River

1. Have children sit in 2 lines facing each other with a piece of fabric down the centre representing the river.
2. Hand out the picture cards to one line and the word cards to the other.
3. Ask children holding the word cards to blend the phonemes to read the word on their card.
4. Ask the children holding the picture cards if they think they can match the words to their pictures.
5. The child holding the picture card “crosses the river” to sit behind his or her partner.
6. The game is over when all children have “crossed the river”.

Memory/ Pairs

1. Place all the cards face down on the desk.
2. Children each have a turn at turning over two cards.
3. Ask a child to turn over the first card. If it is a word card he/she should try to read it. If it is a picture card, he/she should try to think what the picture represents. Then turn over a second card. If the cards match then the player keeps the pair. If not, then both cards are turned face down.
4. The child with the most pairs wins.

Other Games

You could also play: Snap and Go Fish.