

Flashcards

BABY

LOGIC

These flashcards with cut-out shapes feature lots of cute animals and their little ones! Children can play with the cards in a variety of ways.



SKILLS

Make connections;
Learn to classify;
Recognize animals;
Build vocabulary

MY FIRST ANIMALS

Choose a time when the children are interested and paying attention, and sitting comfortably in a well-lit, suitable spot. Show them the adult animal flashcards, one at a time, saying the name of the animal pictured out loud: "This is a cow, this is a penguin, this is a tiger, this is an elephant.." and so on.



IN-SET SHAPES

Draw their attention to the details and show them that each card with an animal on it also has a pull out shape beside it. Pull it out and explain that under the shape is a picture of each adult animal's little one. Say the baby animals' names out loud, explaining that one is the baby of the other.



PARENTS AND LITTLE ONES

Use the Montessori three-period method to help the children learn the animals' names. Ask the children to point to or give you a particular card, "Give me the penguin, give me the tiger..." and so on. Reinforce learning by asking the children to remember the names of the animals, "What is this called? And this?" If they can't remember the names of some of the animals, don't give them the answer, move on and ask them another question. Try to make the learning process as natural and spontaneous as possible.

You can also adapt the three-period lesson to go over the parent-baby relationships, "This is a penguin." "Which one is its little one?" "Can you give me it?"; "This is a tiger." "Which one is its little one?" "Can you give me it?" and so on.

REASSEMBLE THE SCENES

As a final step, use the pictures on the rear of the flashcards to reassemble the scene. As before, don't try to do it for them just help them to do it themselves with hints and prompts. Encourage them to use the animal shapes to populate the scene with lots of different characters and expand the activity by describing situations or making up stories starring the animals.