

# Montessori

## My First PUZZLE

This multicoloured puzzle, inspired by the Maria Montessori method, gives children the opportunity to build a fun polar world that stimulates gesture, touch, shape perception and spatial awareness.



### SKILLS

Sensory development;  
Tactile perception;  
Fine motor skills;  
Animal recognition

Begin by letting the children assemble the puzzle. Let them do it by themselves, guided by the self-correcting matches. If you see the children are finding it difficult, show them how to do it, joining two tiles, for example, then asking them to do it again themselves. While playing the game, don't forget to say aloud the names of each thing pictured, point to them and encourage the children with prompts. When they have assembled the puzzle - or even while they are doing it - draw their attention to the wooden animal shapes, asking them to observe the shapes then slot them into the matching holes.



You can continue the game, now, by introducing the names of the animals, pointing to them and saying out loud, "Look at the polar bear! This is a walrus! This is a snowy owl! This is a puffin! This is a whale." In the next stage, ask, "Where's the polar bear, can you give me it? Where's the walrus, can you give me it?" And so on. Finally, help them to remember the names of the animals with the following questions, "What's this animal called?" pointing to the whale; or, pointing to the snowy owl, "What's this one called?" If the children were engaged during the previous steps of the game, they'll find it easy to remember the names of the animals and say them out loud. Expand the experience by adding information about polar regions and other details depicted in the puzzle.

A number of games can be played and stories made up using the materials provided.

