



Activities

Word Magic, Word Find!

Let WordGirl's love of language inspire your child. Try this collaborative game on a rainy day at home, or even while you're waiting at a doctor's office, and help your child discover the fun in playing with words!

Introduction

WordGirl knows just how important a large and rich vocabulary is. It strengthens self-expression, whether in speaking or in writing. Using words that are presented on WordGirl, you and your child will play a game in which concentration, flexibility, word recognition, and problem-solving are encouraged.

Materials:

- Notebook
- Pens/pencils
- Clock
- Dictionary

Directions:

The objective of this game is for you and your child to find as many different words contained within a single word as possible. You are free to completely change the order of the letters to make new words, but the words must be real. For example, if the word were "sidekick," you might find: side, kick, kid, kids, deck, decks, sick, sic, die, dies, dice, id, is, and so on.

Compound words are good choices for this activity because they are easier for your child to break down into smaller words. Try using some of these new words from WordGirl:

Misunderstanding

Priceless

Crowbar

Troublesome

Trustworthy



1. Choose a word, say it out loud and use it in a sentence. Ask your child to guess the meaning of the word. You can continue to give examples until your child guesses the correct meaning. Then you and your child can look it up in the dictionary to confirm the definition.

2. Next, spell the word out loud as your child copies it down in her notebook so she can see how the word looks. Tell your child that it will be her job to write down all the new words that you find together. Now you are ready to begin!

3. Use a clock or watch to time yourselves, allotting five minutes to find as many words as possible within the original word. Working together, try to find even the smallest words, like "a," "in," or "it," contained within the word. When the time is up, ask your child to count how many new words you found! If there is any question about whether a word is legitimate, help your child look it up in the dictionary.

4. Now try it again, using another word from the list suggested above. Play the game for as long as your child enjoys it. Once she has gotten the idea, encourage her to play this game, using different words, against an older sibling or friend!

Education Sidebar:

Related Episodes: "Re-Enter, The Butcher"[103], "Re-Re-Enter, The Butcher"/[105], "Driving Miss Granny"[112], "Play Date"[115], "Chucky and the Sandwich Factory" [120],

Age Range: 6-8 year olds

Objectives:

- " To reinforce new vocabulary
- " To promote accuracy
- " To encourage problem-solving, flexibility and speed
- " To improve word recognition
- " To promote use of the dictionary

Skills:

- " Language and literacy
- " Spelling
- " Vocabulary
- " Counting

Subject Area:

- " Language Arts