



DAILY WONDER
The Home Learning Hub

DICTIONARY GAMES

Dictionaries contain an abundance of information about words including definitions, origins of words, parts of speech, how to make words plural, how to use words properly and much more. Kids will enjoy looking up words they know or do not yet know and learning about them. But before they can do that, you need to teach them how to use a dictionary. These games will help make this necessary skill fun to learn. Daily Wonder would recommend that you purchase a children's dictionary which has easy to read large print, definitions in simple language that children will understand and pictures.

Based on your observations of your child's abilities you can adjust these games as needed.

1. **Mastering Alphabetical Order #1:** If your child needs more help with alphabetical order first, then you can make a stack of alphabet cards with your child. Write one letter on each card, shuffle them. Hand a random card to your child and have them place it in the correct position along an imaginary line on the floor. For example, if they get handed an "F"...the goal is that they would know to place this letter about 1/4 of the way down the imaginary line. If they get the letter "L", it would be placed halfway down the line.
2. **Master Alphabetical Order #2:** Give your child a stack of 10 index cards and have them write the names of objects they find around the house. Then have them put the cards in alphabetical order.
3. **Alphabetical Order #3:** Give your child a stack of 10 index cards and ask them to write down as many words beginning with 'A' as they can. Then have them put these words in alphabetical order. To do so, they will have to consider the second, third and maybe even fourth letters.
4. **Speed Word Search:** Once your child understands alphabetical order, you could play a timed game with them. Give them a list of 3 words to find—and set a time goal. You can do many variations on these ideas until your child is comfortable and quick with this skill.
5. **Mystery Word Hunt:** Ahead of time, write a series of clues to help your child find a specific word. For instance, clues for the word 'land' might be: 1) Comes between 'lamp' and 'lap', 2) has one syllable, 3) is the dry surface of the earth that is above the sea.