

I Spy Quilt

A Family Literacy Resource

The I Spy Quilt is a great way to play with children while they learn new words. Here are some games to play with the quilt:

- Play the “I Spy” game – for example, ask the child to find the apple, the horse, something that you can eat, and so on. Take turns and have fun!
- Pick some words from the zippered pouch. Match the words on the cards to the pictures on the quilt. If the child can read, they can do this themselves. If not, you can read the card and the child can find the picture on the quilt. Help the child match the word to the picture to encourage the child to play and stay interested!
- Ask the child to pick their favourite square – What is pictured in the square? What do they like about it?
- Use the pictures to tell the child a story. Older children will want to tell you a story about the pictures. Hints for storytelling: Find a picture that relates to a happy event in your childhood and tell the child about it. Or find a picture of an animal and tell the child where an animal lives and what it eats.
- Use a picture on a quilt square in a sentence. For example, “The cow is eating grass.” You could also combine two squares for a sentence. For example, “The snowflakes are falling on the horses.” Encourage the child to make funny sentences. For example, “The dogs are riding on the horses to go to the soccer game.” (uses three squares)
- Count the number of squares that have a similar colour.





- Some squares have pictures of animals. What sound does the animal make?
- You may wish to teach the child a second language. There are some great pictures on the quilt that you can use to teach the child a new language, or to practice the language spoken at home. You can make word cards in that language to match the pictures.
- Some of the pictures may mean something in your culture. Share the gift of that information with the child – tell the child what the picture means to you and why it is important.



- The amount of time playing with the quilt will depend on the age of the child. Remember, 15 minutes can be a long time for some children. When using the word cards, start with about 10 cards. You can use more if the child wants to continue.
 - If the child finds that the whole quilt is too big, fold it in half or quarters and only use a small portion at a time.
 - Return the I Spy Quilt to your Family Literacy Program coordinator on time.
- Tell other parents how you used the I Spy Quilt!