

Memory (Concentration)

the	GO	here	Come
come	Here	THE	go

This is an old game, which is excellent for developing memory and concentration. It's also ideal for learning Sight Words, as it's easy to set up, easy to play, can be varied endlessly... and children love it!

Word Memory- You need at least 2 players, preferably at the same reading level. Make 2 sets of cards with your child's Sight Words.

Instructions for basic Word Memory game- shuffle the pairs of cards, and set them out face down on a table. Each player takes turns to turn over 2 cards, and read out the words on the cards. If the cards match, the player takes the cards. Then it's the next player's turn. The winner is the one at the end with most cards.

Notes-

Some people play this game with the **"extra turn"** option- i.e. if a player gets a matching pair, he also gets an extra turn... but if this keeps happening, the game can finish too fast before the other players have a chance.

If a child is playing this game with an older sibling or adult, let the child read all the cards as they are turned over. You may want to give just the youngest child the "extra turn" option.

It's very easy to make a **set of cards** for this game, but you do need some suitable card- not too thin, and plain on at least one side.

If your card is thin, make sure you write the words with a pale felt pen or pencil, so that the word doesn't show through.

If you use something like a cereal box to make your cards, you'll need to have the plain side for the card backs so that children can't identify the printed side - you can use a blank sticker or a slip of paper pasted onto the printed side of the card to write your word. Children can write their "spelling words for the week" in pencil, then change them the following week.

Variations-

- You can set the cards out in different patterns
- Use different kinds of cards
- Make card pairs with a word card and a picture card

Easier versions of memory-

- Start with only 4 sets of pairs;
- Add a picture to each word card
- have the pairs of words exactly the same size, font, colour;
- make each pair look different from the other pairs- use different fonts/colours/ patterns;
- use words that look quite different (e.g. 'cat, is, Mum..' etc, *not* 'cat, rat, fat..')
- "One Up"- each player turns over two cards and reads the words, but only turns one of them back over again, leaving one of the cards face up. This gives young players a better chance of finding a match.

Harder versions-

- Use more pairs of cards - e.g. 8 sets of pairs., 10 sets....
- Make pairs with different variations of a word (e.g. the/The or the, THE); or use different fonts (e.g. *the*, the), colours etc.
- match word of different tenses- regular (e.g. played, playing) or irregular (e.g. go, went; come, came)
- match words with contractions (e.g. I am, I'm; will not, won't)
- match a word with its opposite
- play Triple Memory... players have to find three matching cards

You can keep on thinking of different variations and uses for this wonderful game, to teach letters, numbers, colours, words, grammar concepts....

Computer Memory games-

There are several versions of Memory or Concentration that you can play on a computer. These are fun for children, and can be played alone.

I have adapted a free Custom Concentration computer game to include picture cards with words on them. There are various sets of animals (zoo, farm, horses, butterflies..), vehicles (including motorbikes sets), words, Italian number words, etc.

These games can be downloaded for completely free use from my website, www.ePuzzlEd.net. There are also lots of other free puzzles, games and activities to print or download to help children learn to read.