

Social Activity 8: Matching Photos to People

Primary Goal

Developing socialization skills.

Secondary Goals

Developing listening, sorting and matching skills; laying the basis for understanding symbols.

Material

Work mat.

You and a small group of toddlers.

Two posters hung with paper envelopes or “pockets,” each large enough to hold a photo so that the top part of the photo shows. Make the posters (and pockets) contrasting colors. For example, make one poster yellow. Label this poster **HERE TODAY**. Make the other blue and label it **NOT HERE TODAY**.

Basket containing laminated photos of the children in the group, including photos of children absent that day. So that the photos can withstand handling, glue each to a square of heavy cardstock or cardboard.

Presentation

- This activity appeals particularly to the interests and abilities of toddlers 18–21 months old.
- In advance, fasten the posters securely side by side to a wall or an easel — at child height. Place the prepared photos of the children in the basket.
- Put the work mat in place in front of the poster and put the basket on the work mat. Encourage the children to help.
- Sit with the children in a semi-circle facing the work mat.



- Start by naming the activity. For example, say, “This yellow poster is for pictures of people who are here today. This blue poster is for pictures of people who are not here today.”
- Take the photos out of the basket and stack them in a pile on the work mat in front of you. Set the basket aside.
- Pick up the top photo from the pile. Look at the photo closely, then look carefully at every child in the group.
- If the child in the photo is present, get up and give the photo to the child, saying the child’s name, indicating the HERE TODAY poster, and emphasizing the word “here.” For example, say, “Here is Sonia’s picture. Sonia is here today. Sonia, please put your picture in a pocket on the yellow HERE TODAY poster.” Guide the child to place her/his photo into a pocket on the poster. After the child has placed the photo in the pocket, thank the child and ask her/him to sit down.
- If the child in the photo is not present, get up and place the photo of the child into a pocket on the blue NOT HERE TODAY poster. Again say the child’s name and emphasize the phrase “not here.” For example, say, “Here is Donald’s picture. Donald is not here today. I will put Donald’s picture in a blue NOT HERE pocket.”
- Repeat until all the photos have been placed on the posters.
- Pause and smile at the children.
- Remove the photos from the posters and place the photos in a pile on the work mat.
- Invite a child to come up and take a photo from the top of the pile.
- Ask that child to look in the group for the child in the photo. For example, say, “Rachel, look at the picture, then look around the group. Is this child here today?”
- Give the child time to look around the group.
- If the child in the photo is present, invite the child to take the card to that person. For example, say, “Yes, Parmjeet is here today. Thank you, Rachel. Now you can sit down.”



- Give Rachel time to sit down, then turn your attention to the child with the card. For example, say, “Parmjeet, you are here today. Please put your picture in a pocket on the yellow HERE TODAY poster.” Guide the child to place her/his photo into a pocket on the poster. After the child has placed the photo in the pocket, thank the child and ask her/him to sit down.
- Repeat until the children have placed all the photos on the two posters.
- Involve the children in removing the photos from the poster and placing them in the basket, then returning the work mat and materials to their proper places. This completes the activity.
- Make sure that the basket of photos stays available — on a low shelf, for example — for the children to take to the posters and work on again as they wish. Some toddlers also enjoy just looking at the cards and saying the names over and over again.

Extension 1

- Make this a cognitive activity by presenting two identical sets of photo cards, then asking the children to name the pictures and match them in pairs.