

HIDE AND SEEK

Working Memory

Toddler

This book invites readers to find objects hidden amidst a variety of animals. Each page includes a picture of the hidden object to remind children of their task.

CORE SKILL OBJECTIVES

INTENTIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES

REGULATE



Children will:

- ◆ Maintain focus and attention on a simple task or activity for short periods of time

Teachers will:

- ◆ Narrate use of working memory

TEACHING TIP

Working memory is a child's ability to remember and use relevant information during a task. Very young children are just beginning to develop this skill, so it's important that adults set expectations that are in line with what children can do and provide support to help children remember what to do in the moment. We can help children develop memory skills by modeling strategies for keeping things in mind. As children continue to develop their working memory, they will be able to stay engaged and complete tasks with more than one step.

1. INTRODUCE

- ◆ "Some pictures are hiding in this book and it's our job to find them! We're going to use our eyes and our brains to remember what to look for. This book is called *Hide and Seek*."

2. READ THE BOOK

- ◆ Pause occasionally to draw children's attention back to the visual support picture as they search for the hiding objects.

Narrate Use of Working



Read: "Which rooster hides a glove?"

Narrate: "Look at this glove with your eyes. This picture shows us what to look for. Let's find the glove. There it is!"

Read: "Which giraffe hides candles?"

Narrate: "Now we're looking for candles (*point*). Candles, candles, where are the candles? Saying 'candles' helps me remember (*point to brain*) to look for the candles."

Read: "Which butterfly hides hearts?"

Ask: "What are we looking for?"

Narrate: "Oh yes. The picture shows hearts. We're looking for hearts that look like this (*point*). Hearts, hearts, hearts. We're looking for hearts. Here they are!"

3. REVIEW

- ◆ "We did it! We found all the pictures!"

4. KEEP IT GOING

- ◆ Whenever possible, support children's development of working memory in the context of play! For example, play movement games that require children to remember a movement that is associated with a sound or sign (e.g., flap their wings when you show a bird or crawl when they see a dog). Or play "Simon Says," starting with one-step directions and adding more as children develop. Watch closely to see how much information children are holding in their mind during the game and increase support or challenge as needed.