



School Readiness Skill: Identifies basic colors

The best way to teach color concepts to your child is to make meaningful connections to their everyday life. Children are more likely to master these concepts if they see them as relevant to their world. Try these fun learning activities at home to help your child learn the basic colors.

Meal Time Colors

Work with your child to make a snack that includes the basic colors. Choose foods that contain the colors or shades of these colors. Many healthy foods such as the fruits and vegetables come in an assortment of colors. Examples include: oranges for the color orange, broccoli for the color green, cheese slices for the color yellow, strawberries for the color red and so on. Take time to discuss and ask your child questions about the colors of these foods such as “Yes, the strawberry is the color red, can you name some other foods that are the color red?” and so on.



Color Hunt

Go on a color hunt around your home, park, shopping center or neighborhood. Discuss what colors they see or what colors the objects resemble most. For example, the refrigerator and floor tiles in the kitchen are white, and the traffic signs you pass in your car on the way to the grocery may represent all sorts of different colors.



I Spy: Colors

One way to help children learn the colors is to play the classic game, I Spy. Start off by inviting your child to join you in a room of your home. Then choose a color and think of an object in this room that is that same color. Using the chant, “I spy with my little eye something that is the color _____. Can you find it? Your child will then search the room attempting to guess which object you have chosen. You and your child can repeat the activity above by taking turns repeating the chant and choosing objects of different colors in various rooms of your house. You can also play this game anywhere- in the car, at the grocery, etc.



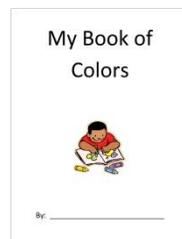
Color Sort

Sorting everyday objects around the home by color is another fun way to engage your child. Let your child help you sort the laundry by like colors- items containing red can go in the red pile or objects containing black can go in the black pile and so on. You and your child can repeat this activity in other rooms of your home with other objects. You can extend this activity to help build your child's vocabulary by encouraging your child to use the word "color" together with the name of the object. Instead of saying "this is purple", it is more beneficial to say "this is a sock and it is the color red."



Color Book

Once your child has had plenty of opportunities to explore colors in their world they should move on to using paint, crayons, markers, and other drawing tools to represent these colors on paper. Try stapling several blank pages into a "Colors Book". Invite your child to draw objects of different colors on each page. A page can be dedicated to red objects, a page for blue objects, and so on. Help your child label each page and keep a copy of the book in your child's library of books at home to enjoy again and again.



Check out the list below for some great children's books that teach the concept of color. Many of these books are available at your local public library.



My Many Colored Days by Dr. Seuss

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you See? by Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle

Mouse Paint by Ellen Stohl Walsh

Color Dance by Ann Jonas

Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehlert