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## First Words Flashcards

### Suggestions on using your pack of flashcards

A pack of flashcards has 47 cards that will **benefit** your child in the following ways

- Build vocabulary and encourage discussion on farm animals, family, food, the outdoors and wild animals
- Enhance perception (visual discrimination)
- Enhance memory & concentration (crucial element of cognitive development)
- Promote oral language development
- Promote reading skills in preschool children
- Develop fine motor dexterity as they manipulate the cards in games and activities
- Encourage social development through fun interactive activities

**Here are some activities that children can engage in depending on age and developmental level**

- Picture reading and discussion on the picture: what is it, where we find it, what it does, how we engage with it, etc.
- Sorting: The cards are themed by family members, foods, nature, domestic animals and wild animals. This is to assist parents/teachers to focus on one group of words at a time. It makes introducing the words a lot easier and once the child has remembered all the words it would be a good test to see if he/she can sort and group the like cards together.
- Generalisation: Go into more detail about each card and discuss the context within which that picture is found and used. For example, with the domestic animals a parent/teacher can discuss what each of the domestic animals produces for example milk from cows, eggs from chickens, wool for our warm jerseys in winter etc.
- Riddles: Lay out several cards and ask the child to pick out a card based on your description e.g. you could say “it is something we eat that grows on a vine” and the child should pick out the grapes card.
- Introducing colour: The themes are in different colours wild life with blue and pink trimming, domestic animals with a yellow with green trimming, family with a light blue and orange trimming, food with orange and yellow trimming and nature with a green and light blue trimming. This allows you to introduce colour to your child.



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### Game: Build a Story

- Number of players: minimum 2 players (ages 4 years+)
- Objective: to take turns building a story using the flashcards (and your imagination) to prompt where the story goes!
- How to play:
  - choose as many cards as you think the players can handle but a minimum of 20 cards to allow each player a few turns
  - lay the cards out with the pictures facing up
  - one player starts the story based on any two cards they choose. For example: player 1 picks up the flashcard of a “boy” and a “dog” and starts the story with “One day there was a **boy** who decided to take a walk with his **dog**...”
  - the next player then continues the story by picking two other cards e.g. “goat” and “cow”  
“...along the way they passed a **goat** and a **cow** in the middle of the street...”
  - the game goes on as each player gets their turn taking two cards and building up on the story...it can get silly, fun and creative, especially as the cards get fewer and fewer!

### Game: What is it?

- Number of players: minimum 4 players (ages 4 – 6 years)
- Objective: to describe the picture on the flashcard to your team members without actually saying the name of the picture. Your team members need to guess the word/picture based on your description.
- How to play:
  - Split into two groups
  - A team member then picks a card and describes it to his/her team member without saying the word e.g. it’s an animal and we use its wool to make sweaters...
  - The team member can only use 3 descriptions. If the team guesses the word then that team gets one point.
  - Then the next team has its turn.
  - The game goes on until all the cards are finished.