Play I Spy

Learning Experience 3

Foundation/Prep – suggestions for teachers:

Children play 'I Spy' with a table of objects from the 1970s and 80s, listening for initial sounds and describing what they can see.

Before you begin

- Clear a table in your classroom and build up a collection of objects from the 70s and 80s.
- Parents, colleagues or the children themselves could bring objects in for the display.

Objects to collect

Old records · a fountain pen · a Rubik's cube
A skipping rope · an old cricket or tennis ball
An old shoe · a coin collection · snow domes
Old toys – a dinky toy or a yo-yo

The more varied the starting sounds, the more the game has to work with.

Running the activity

1. **Gather the group**
   Play with a small group or the whole class, seated where everyone can see the table.
2. **Model a turn**
   Take the first turn yourself so the children hear what a good clue sounds like.
3. **Play I Spy**
   Children take turns giving clues based on the objects on the table, starting with the sound the object begins with.
4. **Stretch the describers**
   Encourage clues that go beyond the first sound – size, texture, colour, what the object was used for.

What 'at standard' looks like

- **Identifying initial phonemes and sounds (phonological awareness)** — Correctly identifies and matches initial consonant sounds or letters to the object.
- **Speaking and vocabulary** — Uses descriptive words to formulate clues.
- **Listening and social interaction** — Processes clues given by peers. Takes turns appropriately.

Assessment rubric for this activity: nannie-le03-play-i-spy-assessment.pdf