

## Toddler Object-to-Photo Matching

**Lesson 1: Vocabulary.** Place the objects in a container on the child's shelf for grasping and exploration. Invite a small group of children to join you. Ask one child to bring the mat and one child to bring the container of objects. Use the first two-periods of the three-period lesson to introduce the vocabulary. *Period 1:* Pick up the first object, feel it, say, "This is a ladle." Place it on the mat. Continue for the other objects. When all objects are on the rug, rename each one. *Period 2:* Invite each child (by name) to find an object. Say, "Sarah, can you find the slotted spoon?" Play a lot of games at the Period 2 stage. For example, "Where is the ladle? Let's put the ladle over here." *Note: With toddlers, we usually do not ask the toddler to name the object (Period three) unless we are certain they will answer correctly.* Repeat as often as the children like. When they are done, carefully guide the children to put each object back and put away the container and work rug.

**Lesson 2: Objects with Identical Matching Cards.** Begin as above but also ask one child to bring the container of identical matching cards to the work area. Take out one object at a time and place it on your work rug. Pause a moment before naming it to give the children a chance to volunteer the name. Name an object and invite a child to put it back. Repeat for all. Lay the first exact matching card face-up on your work area. Say, "This is a picture of a wooden spoon." Pick up the corresponding object. Say, "This is the wooden spoon," and lay it directly on top of the picture of the object. Pick up the next card and place it on the work rug. Say the object's name. Invite a child by name to find the matching object and place it on the picture as before. Continue for all pictures and objects. When everything has been matched, pick up the first object, say its name, and place it back in its container. Put the corresponding picture upside-down on the tray. Invite the children one-at-a-time to repeat for the rest.

**Lesson 3: Objects and Similar Matching Cards.** Proceed as in Lesson 2 but use the similar matching cards. Invite the children, place the objects one-at-a-time on the rug (pausing before naming them), and inviting the children to put them back. Touch the picture cards and say, "These pictures are similar but not exactly the same." Place a picture on the rug and say, "This is a picture of a wooden spoon. It's not the same wooden spoon, but it is still a wooden spoon." Pick up the matching object and say, "This is a wooden spoon." Place the object next to the picture. Continue for all, letting the children find the objects and place them next to their pictures. When everything is matched, put the first object back in its container and put the matching picture upside-down on the tray. Invite each child by name to continue for the remaining items.

**Repetition.** Introduce these variations of Lesson 2 and 3 on the same or different days based on the children's interest. (1) Mix up the cards and repeat as in Lesson 2. (2) Invite a child to choose an object and ask them to tell you when they see the picture of that object. Show each picture to the child, placing the one they choose face-up on the work rug for object matching. Continue for the rest with the other children. (3) Hold the pictures in your hands as if they were a hand of playing cards. Invite a child to choose one card, place it on the rug, and find the matching object.