

Look and See

Eye Spy

Overview: With young children a simple and fun outdoors game of “I Spy” can sharpen observation skills as well as address basic learning standards. This game can be played many times with a different learning outcome each time.

Materials: none

Time: 5 – 15 minutes

Action:

- Circle-up outdoors. Explain expected behavior and “rules of the game.”
- Begin the game focusing on colors: “I spy something red.” Does adding more information help focus on a single object?
- Next add a combination of size (bigger/smaller than) and color. Or living/non-living.
- Include location terms near/far, above/below/beside/around, etc.
- When students are ready, add geometric shapes to the spy list. Take a “Find the Shapes Hike.”
- Let students play “spy” with each other.

Concepts & Vocabulary

Customize the activity to stress recent concepts or vocabulary: Colors, letters of the Alphabet, Geometric Shapes, descriptive words for locations, prepositions. The activity links communication skills to scientific observation.

Management Strategy: Use word cards and verbal directions.



A schoolyard garden is an excellent place to play eye-spy.