

# Occupational Therapy Parent Information: Early Thinking (perceptual & cognitive) Skills: Stage Three

## WHAT ARE THEY?

Thinking and problem solving for babies refers to their ability to use toys to learn about the world around them. It also includes learning concepts such as;

1. Shape matching and sorting
2. Understanding of size and 3 dimensions
3. Colour matching and sorting.



## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

These skills show that the child is learning from his experiences. They form the basis for ongoing development of thinking and problem solving. They help babies to make sense of their world and how to use toys in different and more creative ways.



## GREAT IDEAS

### Shape matching and sorting

- Simple 2 or 3 piece shape puzzles
- Shape sorters (e.g. "Tupperware ball"). Start by covering all but the hole for the piece the baby is holding
- Use gentle hand over hand support if needed at first.

### Understanding of size and 3 dimensions

- Ring stacker
- Stacking cups - start with 2/3 cups only and gradually increase
- Duplo Lego - pulling apart 2 pieces first then putting together
- Block building and stacking to make a tower.

### Colour matching and sorting

- Simple colour matching games
- Grouping together cars / duplo lego / other toys of similar colour
- Start with matching all one colour first, then increase to 2 etc.

## EVERY DAY GAMES & TOYS

### At bath time:

- Enjoy water play
- Containers for pouring from one cup into another
- Pour water into water wheels, sieves or colanders from the kitchen
- Squeeze sponges with water to fill a cup

### House hold games

- Help find pegs of the same colour when hanging out the washing
- Putting toys away into correct containers
- Finding matching socks / shoes for dressing.



## OTHER COMMENTS

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## YOUR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

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