

Functions and Associations

When children have to use their knowledge of the **distinctive features** and/or **function** of the object it helps the child learn how to share features and functions of objects and in turn **helps increase category knowledge**, in turn creating **deeper understanding of vocabulary concepts**.

- a. Gather 6-10 pictures (e.g., of school, animals, food,) and place in a bag.
- b. Explain to your child in very simple words what game you are going to play.
- c. Demonstrate the activity to your child. Pull a picture from the bag and label and state functions or attributes for the picture.
- d. Then give the child each picture one at a time and have your child follow the directions to match the pictures and also state functions or attributes as you and the child label the objects.
- e. Prompt your child, as needed, to follow your direction.
- f. Repeat steps until at least once a day until the child gets the concept.
- g. Don't get frustrated or discouraged if your child does not immediately get the concepts. Be patient and make it fun and playful.

