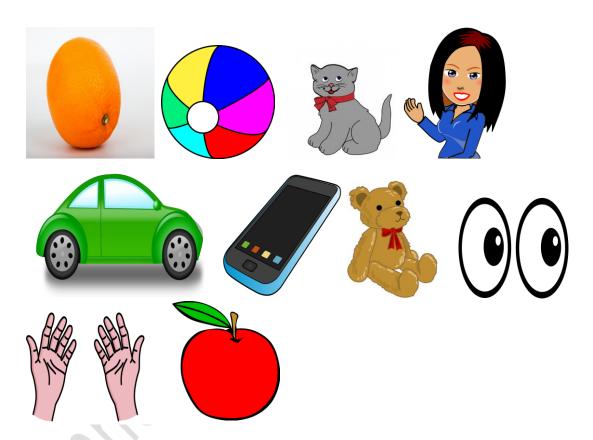# Vocabulary Activities for Young Learners

Matching an object to a picture requires the understanding of the picture as a symbol, or representation, of the actual object. Object-to-picture matching is a great way to build vocabulary. When the pictures and objects don't match exactly, children are forced to use their knowledge of the **distinctive features** and/or **function.** Encourage the child to think a little about to match them correctly. Helping the child realize that the object and picture go together helps them think about object features. This in turn helps them recognize distinctive features and functions of objects. It further helps them in turn create **deeper understanding of vocabulary concepts**.

At home

a. Gather three pictures (e.g., of body parts, animals, food) and along with the actual object for your child.

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 (e.g., picture of and match to the object).

d. Label the objects as you match.

e. Then give the child each picture one at a time and have your child follow the directions to match the pictures as you and the child label the objects.

f. Prompt your child, as needed, to follow your direction or label the picture as he

or she matches the pictures to the objects.

g.   Repeat steps until all at least once a day until the child gets the concept.

h.   Don't get frustrated or discouraged if your child does not immediately get the concepts. Be patient and make it fun and playful.