

MAKING A PUZZLE AT HOME

If your child likes to put puzzles together, he's in luck. *The skills it takes to make a puzzle are some of the same ones children need for learning to read.*

In order to read, you have to pay attention to the shapes of letters and see their patterns in words. You have to recognize the top and bottom of things and notice what's on each side. And these are some of the skills children practice when they play with puzzles.

You can make a puzzle from a picture in last year's calendar or from a photograph you think your child would like that you find in a magazine. You could even make smaller puzzles from last year's greeting cards! It's easy.

Just glue the photograph or picture on a heavier piece of cardboard. Then cut it into several big pieces. Start with just a few pieces at first. When you see that your child can easily put those pieces together, you can make the puzzle harder just by cutting the big pieces into smaller ones.

Playing with puzzles is fun. *And it's a great way to get ready to read!*