Games and Activities to Help Develop Visual Memory

Recall Games & Activities - to develop awareness of features to help put them into memory for recall. Objects or pictures can be used for this, talk through the important features of an object or picture with your child, if possible let them touch or use their finger to move from one feature to another. Then cover the object/picture and ask them to recall all the features they can remember. Show the object/picture again and talk through their recollections and discuss how they might be able to remember more things another time; for instance focus on the position of things next to one another or colour.

- **Picture or Word Card Games** - The cards are placed face down and you turn a card over, look at it, then place it back face down again, in the same spot and try to find its matching pair by turning another card. If you do not find the matching pair it is someone else’s go. The idea is to remember where the cards are, so you can make a matching pair, the winner is the one with the most pairs of cards.

- **Kim’s Games** - Place a few familiar objects under a cloth, remove the cloth so that your child can see them and study them (talk through what they are and maybe what is next to what). After about a minute cover them with the cloth; how many can they remember, can they remember colours or position. Then show them the objects again and talk through what they remembered. You could move the objects around and play again or remove an object to see if they can work out which one is missing.

Completion Games & Activities - to develop awareness of features to help put them into memory for recall. Show them a completed simple picture, shape or pattern, cover it and give them an incomplete version of the same picture, shape or pattern to complete. Then compare with the original and talk through any differences. Make the activity appropriate to their ability, too simple they will be insulted, too hard and they will feel frustrated.

What’s Missing Games & Activities - to develop awareness of features to help put them into memory for recall. Get your child to look carefully at what appears to be two identical pictures and spot the differences. The ‘Where’s Wally’ series of books and activities are fun and help to develop these skills.

Make Patterns - to help develop placement relationships and language to support the memory of the pattern. Talk through the process of making the same pattern as shown on a card or already produced; for instance the red square goes on the right of the blue square and the yellow square is below the blue square. Ask your child to verbalise what they see and are doing to recreate the pattern. Patterns can be created and
copied with all sorts of items - beads, building blocks, lego, and shapes. As skill levels improve tessellation (a pattern of shapes that fit perfectly together) activities and square or patterned paper for colouring and creating their own pattern designs are enjoyable.

**Observation Activities** - to help develop their observational skills; understanding where and how close or far apart objects or features are in relation to one another. When drawing for instance a person take time to look at what a person really looks like and what appears next - head, neck, shoulder trunk of body etc... Fuzzy Felt can be used the same way to create more accurately positioned scenes.