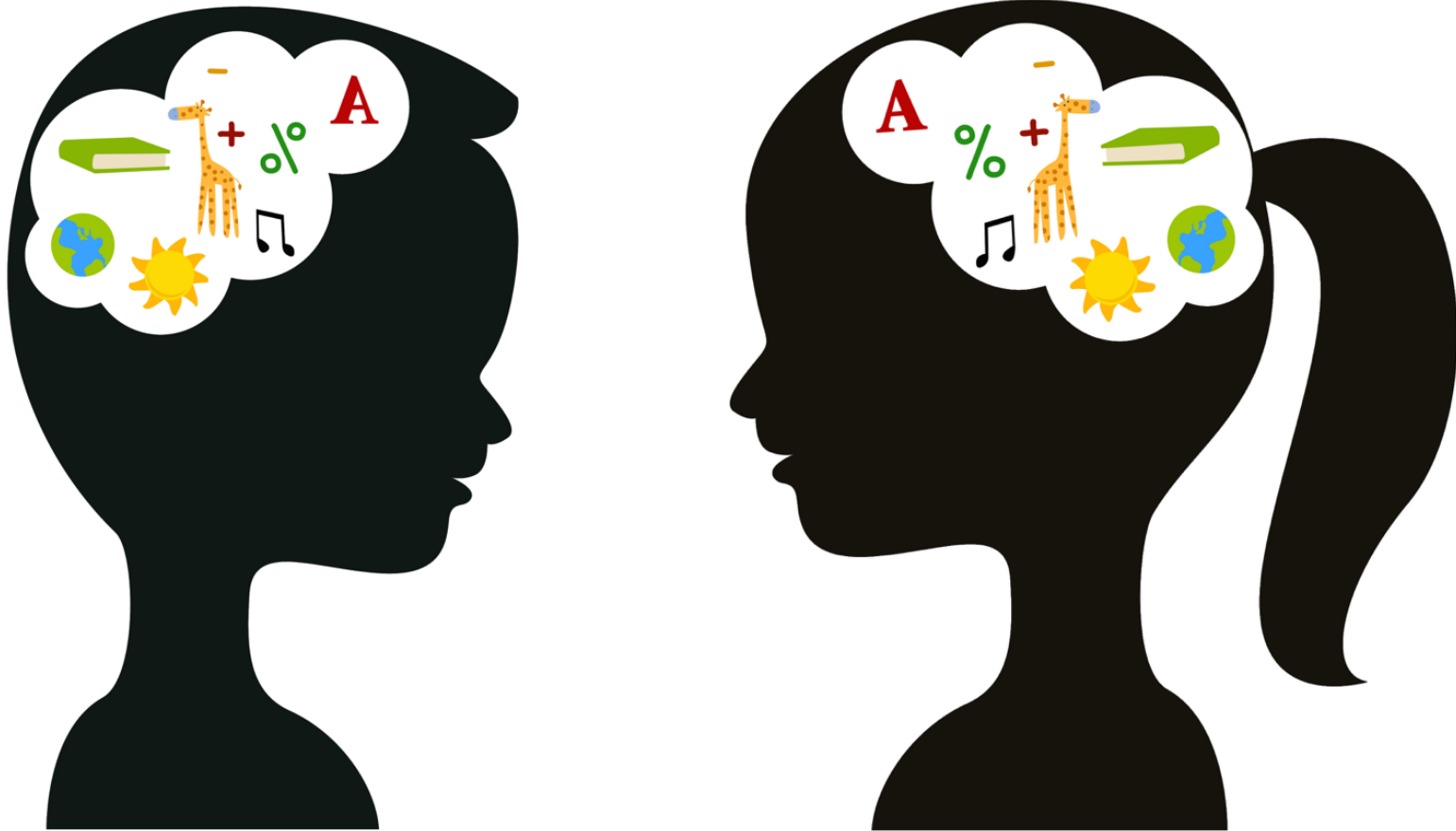


Improve executive function
in 5 minutes a day!



Working memory BRAIN GAMES

by Angela Watson

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Angela Watson
TheCornerstoneofTeachers.com

How should I use these games?

Research shows working memory training produces results when conducted for short periods of time on a daily basis, so I recommend playing the games for 5-10 minutes each school day. Because children can show benefits from only a few weeks of this daily practice, and because I think the games would be more fun and engaging after many months, I recommend implementing the working memory practice for just one quarter in the school year (approximately 9 weeks).

Have students play the same game for the entire week, Monday through Friday. The following Monday, introduce a new game. Since you only need 9 games and I have included 15 games in the PDF, you can select the ones you think your students would enjoy and benefit from the most. You can select a variety of games (letters, numbers, words, auditory recall, and visual-spatial recall) or focus on the areas in which your students need the most practice. Once students are familiar with the games, you can also allow them to choose which game to play.

15 Working Memory Brain Games for Kids: 5 minute daily exercises to improve executive functioning

What is working memory?

Working memory is the information you can consciously hold in your mind in any given moment. It's like a workspace where we temporarily keep information we'll need only for a short time. Having a strong working memory is having the ability to retain fresh information long enough to do something with it.

Our working memory is quite limited—if we try to remember a lengthy sentence or a number with a lot of digits (like someone's phone number), it can be very difficult. People with strong working memories find it easier to recall and manipulate information they hear without needing to write it down; for example, they can solve a math problem in their heads, remember driving directions they read several minutes earlier, and recall the names of each person in a group they've just met.

Working memory is one aspect of executive function, a collection of the brain's cognitive processes. The two other core executive functions are flexibility and self-control/self-regulation.

Why is working memory important?

Poor working memory is the cause of many common concerns teachers have about students' behavior in class. Have you ever bemoaned that your students can't follow directions and struggle with multi-step directions? That they forget things they were just taught or have trouble copying information and taking notes? Or that they lose their place in tasks, need constant reminders about what to do, and have difficulty retelling stories and explaining strategies they used?

These are all indications of poor working memory. And not surprisingly, kids who exhibit these behaviors fall behind in their academics, especially in reading and math.

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Most of the time, we never make the connection that working memory problem. We don't realize that when kids appear to be daydreaming or attending to a task, it's sometimes because their working memory is simply cannot hold any additional information, and because they later along, they just tune out.

If we support children in developing a strong working memory, then:

- ✓ apply previously learned information to new situations
- ✓ stay focused and on-task
- ✓ reorganize their thoughts to accommodate new information
- ✓ take better notes and copy information more accurately
- ✓ follow complex and multi-step directions

Working memory is proven to be a better indicator of later test scores, test scores, and even student attitude! A study by Mory Charles Huime found that children under age 10 showed significant improvement from verbal working memory training than older children (age 10-12). Working memory is something we need to address with PreK elementary-aged children.

Why is working memory a challenge for many kids?

Very young children generally have a small working memory. As they grow older, their working memory increases. So, poor working memory are simply developmental.

However, other conditions can cause our working memory to be less than optimal. Main circumstances include when we are distracted, when too much information in our heads at one time, and when we are multitasking. For many kids, that describes almost every minute of their day. Once information is lost from working memory, it never stored in long-term memory.

If you've wondered why you have to repeat yourself so often, it's probably because your working memory is so small that you're unable to recall what you've said... mysteriously. You're stimulated when you were giving directions, but your working memory said stopped from their working memory, so the information never got to the long-term memory.

How do I know if the games improved students' working memory?

Observe your students during the first day of game play and note how well they did (how many letters/numbers they were able to remember in sequence, etc.) If you want more controlled data, play the game for a minute or two with each child yourself, and use that as your baseline data.

After the nine weeks (or however many weeks you choose to use the games in your classroom), have students play the same game again and record how well they perform. Use that as your baseline data.

What else can I do to improve my students' working memory?

There is some evidence that the brain can be trained to process information more efficiently through activities such as:

- video games such as *Hop Frog Hop* and *Ribbit Frog Ribbit*
- riddles
- crossword puzzles
- word scrambles
- martial arts
- mindfulness training
- Simon Says

I highly recommend the free PDF [Understanding working memory: a classroom guide](#) for additional ideas about how your classroom routines and daily practices can support working memory development.



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How to introduce the games to students?

Start by playing one of the games with them! Pick the one that you think is most fun and play it whole class using student volunteers. Explain that researchers have found that playing fun games like the one they actually makes it easier for kids to do all of those things! Tell kids that they have the opportunity to play one of those fun games with a partner for 5-10 minutes a day for the next few weeks. At that point, they should find it a little easier to solve problems in their heads, keep their place in a book when reading, and explain the designated time in your schedule that they will get to play (before morning warm-up, right after lunch, just before dismissal, etc.) Model an appropriate game play practices as well cooperative learning strategies (being supportive and kind to your partner, encouraging each other, etc.)

what is working memory?

childhood conditions. A new study claims living in poverty is equivalent to when the brain is always preoccupied with energy is available for processing other decisions do academics performance.

How do we know working memory training works?

There have been number of studies proving this. For example, researchers in Japan conducted 10 minutes of working memory training with eight-year-old children. The training involved tasks such as asking the children to identify which number came up more often.

IQ scores for eight-year olds increased 6% in the control group, and the children with the lowest initial scores showed the greatest improvement. This same article cites similar (though slightly less dramatic) results for older children—and even adults who participated in memory training.

What's most remarkable to me is the short amount of time it takes. Salminen, Strobach, and Schubert confirmed in a 2012 study that working memory takes only 5 to 10 minutes of practice a day for children.

How do these working memory games fit with the research?

When I first came across these studies, I immediately did a Google search for working memory games for children. I was shocked to find that very few exist. There are some online "cognitive enhancement" programs available, but none specifically for working memory—and there was no playing recall games, but there was no ready-to-use system available.

I decided to do the research myself and create games that could be played in 5-10 minutes per day in PreK-6 classrooms. I studied articles and books on working memory, looked at the type of games that were played with children in the research studies, considered developmental best practices. I tried to create games that covered visual-spatial memory, auditory skills, letters and words, and also numbers.

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Build It

Materials: timer, shape cards

Directions: Set a timer for 30 seconds and make any design you want using 7 shape cards. When time is up, you and your partner should look at each other's designs. Try to create an exact replica of their work: use your pieces to make a design that looks just like theirs! When you're done, play again and create new designs for each other to copy.

Challenge: Try using more shape cards: 8 this time, then 9, then 10. Can you still correctly copy each other's designs?

Remember My Design

Materials: shape cards, piece of construction (or other thick) paper

Directions: Make any design you want using 4 shape cards. Count silently to 10 when you're done to give your partner time to remember your design. Then put the piece of paper over your design to cover it. Can your partner remember your design and use his or her pieces to make one just like yours? Remove the paper from your design and compare them to see! When you're done, switch roles and try to copy your partner's design.

Challenge: Try using 5 shape cards. If you and your partner are successful several times in a row, try using more cards!

Find the Rhythm

Materials: none

Directions: Make a rhythm for your partner to copy! You can softly clap, snap, tap your foot on the floor, tap your hand on the table, etc. Start with 5 beats, mixing up slow and fast sounds. Your partner should do the same thing right afterward. After a few minutes, switch roles and copy your partner's rhythm!

Challenge: Try adding more than 5 beats to your rhythm. To really practice your memory skills, you can also try making a rhythm, counting to five, and THEN having your partner copy!

What's the Word?

Materials: word cards

Directions: Flip over 3 word cards and ask your partner to memorize them. Then have your partner close his or her eyes and try to say all three words in order. Flip over a fourth card for your partner and see if she or he can memorize 4 words in a row. Keep adding more cards until your partner forgets the words. Then, switch roles so that your partner flips over the word cards and you try to memorize!

Challenge: Try adding in picture, letter, and/or number cards!

Recall 3

Materials: your choice of cards (picture, word, letter, or number)

Directions: Take 3 cards from the stack and show them to your partner. Count silently to 10, then flip the cards back over. Can your partner recall (remember) what was on all 3 cards? Take turns flipping over cards for one another and trying to remember what was on them.

Challenge: Add in a fourth card. If you and your partner can consistently remember all four, you could try even more!

All Mixed Up

Materials: picture, word, letter, and number cards

Directions: Mix up all the cards and place them in one face down stack. Take 5 cards from the stack and place them face up for your partner to see and memorize. Flip the cards back over face down and mix them up. Now turn 4 of the cards face up again, but leave one face down. Can your partner guess which card is not shown?

Challenge: Try leaving 2 cards face down and see if your partner can remember them both! You can also try playing with 6 cards, or even more.

15 games on printable cards

Working Memory Brain Games

Improve kids' executive functioning with 5 minutes of partner games a day!



My 3 Facts

Materials: none

Directions: Tell your partner 3 things you did when first arrived at school this morning. Be sure to say them in order! Have your partner repeat them back to you. Then switch roles! Play until both of you have said 3 things you did over the weekend. 3 things you would like to do after school. 3 steps for playing a sport. 3 facts about your favorite books or favorite movies. 3 facts about your favorite foods or favorite animals. You can play this game about your favorite books or favorite movies. You can also play this game about your favorite foods or favorite animals.

Challenge: Try using more than 4 things you did when you first arrived at school.

Taking a Trip

Materials: none

Directions: Say a place you would like to go to and something you would bring with you. For example: "I'm going to the beach and I'm taking a beach bag." Your partner then repeats your sentence and adds their own item. "I'm going to the beach and I'm taking a beach bag and some flip-flops." You then repeat the list and keep adding to it. When the list gets too long to remember, start again with a new place and items you would bring!

Challenge: Can you remember 10 items in the list?

What Comes After?

Materials: number cards

Directions: Draw 4 number cards from the stack and place them in order where only you can see them. Say the numbers to your partner and then ask a question about them. For example: "6, 2, 5, 9. What number was after 3?" Here are some other questions you can ask: Which number was second? What number was last? Which was the first number? Which number was before...?

Challenge: Use 5 number cards, or even 6!

Name That Number

Materials: number cards

Directions: Put the cards in a face down stack. Flip the top card and ask your partner to name the number. Then, by the number, your partner will take the next card from the stack. If you have a number 10, your partner will take the 10th card. AND the number of the card they take will be the number you said. Try to be the one who is naming the numbers. You can also try to be the one who is taking the cards. When someone makes a mistake, shuffle the cards and play again!

Challenge: Can you remember 10 numbers? See how close you can get!

Number Talk

Materials: number cards

Directions: Flip over four number cards but don't let your partner see them! Read them aloud to your partner and have him or her repeat those numbers back in the same order you said them. Take turns flipping over number cards, saying them to each other, and repeating them back.

Challenge: How many numbers can you remember and repeat? Try practicing with 4, then 5, and keep going!

Build It

Materials: timer, shape cards

Directions: Set a timer for 30 seconds and make any design you want using 7 shape cards. When time is up, you and your partner should look at each other's designs. Try to create an exact replica of their work: use your pieces to make a design that looks just like theirs! When you're done, play again and create new designs for each other to copy.

Challenge: Try using more shape cards: 3 this time, then 9, then 10. Can you still correctly copy each other's designs?

Remember My Design

Materials: shape cards, piece of construction (or other thick) paper

Directions: Make any design you want using 4 shape cards. Count silently to 10 when you're done to give your partner time to remember your design. Then put the piece of paper over your design to cover it. Can your partner remember your design and use his or her pieces to make one just like yours? Remove the paper from your design and compare them to see! When you're done, switch roles and try to copy your partner's design.

Challenge: Try using 5 shape cards. How many times can you remember several times a row, trying to be a challenge!

What's Missing?

Materials: picture cards

Directions: Take 4 cards from the stack and place them face down in a row. Flip them over slowly for your partner to see and memorize, then flip the cards back over face down. Now turn 3 of the cards face up again, but leave one face down. Can your partner guess which picture is not shown?

Challenge: After your partner has memorized the cards, mix them up before turning them face up again so that they're in a different order! You can also try playing with 5 cards, or even 6!

Sort It

Materials: letter cards

Directions: Turn all your cards face down and take the top 5 cards. Your partner should do the same with 5 cards of his or her own. You both flip over your own cards and sort them any way you want (by color, size, shape, alphabetically, etc.) When you're done, see if you and your partner can guess how each other sorted the cards. Then mix the cards up and play again!

Challenge: Add in the word cards, letter cards, and/or number cards.

Find the Rhythm

Materials: none

Directions: Make a rhythm for your partner to copy! You can use claps, taps, foot on the floor, tap your pencil on the table, etc. Start with 3 beats (clap, tap, tap) and then add more. Your partner should do the same in 30 seconds afterwards. After a few minutes, switch roles and copy your partner's rhythm.

Challenge: Try adding more than 5 beats to your rhythm. To really test your memory skills, you can also try making a rhythm, then adding to it, and then having your partner copy!

What's the Word?

Materials: word cards

Directions: Flip over 3 word cards and ask your partner to memorize them. Then have your partner close his or her eyes and try to say all three words in order. Flip over a fourth card for your partner and see if she or he can memorize 4 words in a row. Keep adding more cards until your partner forgets the words. Then, switch roles so that your partner flips over the word cards and you try to memorize!

Challenge: Try adding in picture, letter, and/or number cards!

Letter Memory

Materials: letter cards

Directions: Flip over 5 letter cards and ask your partner to memorize them. Then have your partner close his or her eyes and try to say all three letters in order. Flip over a fourth card for your partner and see if she or he can memorize 4 letters in a row. Keep going until your partner forgets the letters. Then, switch roles so that your partner flips over the letter cards and you try to memorize!

Challenge: Can you remember 10 letters?

Say My Letters

Materials: letter cards

Directions: Flip over four letter cards but don't let your partner see them! Read them aloud to your partner and have him or her repeat those letters back in the same order you said them. Take turns flipping over letter cards, saying them to each other, and repeating them back.

Challenge: Try using more than 4 letters. Can you remember and repeat 5 letters? Try practicing with 4, then 5, and keep going!

Recall 3

Materials: your choice of cards (picture, word, letter, or number)

Directions: Take 3 cards from the stack and show them to your partner. Count silently to 10, then flip the cards back over. Can your partner recall (remember) what was on all 3 cards? Take turns flipping over cards for one another and trying to remember what was on them.

Challenge: Add in a fourth card. If you and your partner can consistently remember all four, you could try even more!

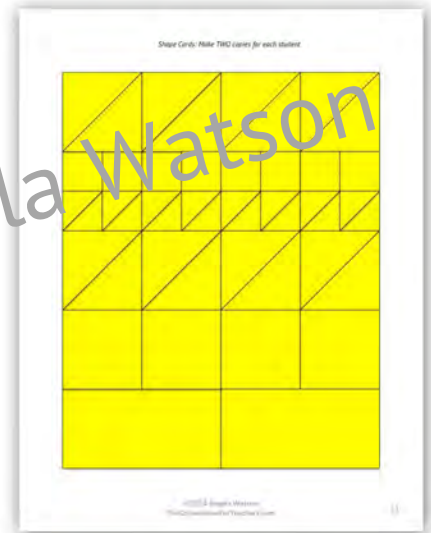
All Mixed Up

Materials: picture, word, letter, and number cards

Directions: Flip up all the cards and place them in one face down stack. Flip 5 cards from the stack and place them face up for your partner to see and memorize. Flip the cards back over face down and mix them up. Now turn 4 of the cards face up again, but leave one face down. Can your partner guess which card is not shown?

Challenge: Try listing 2 cards face down and see if your partner can remember them both! You can also try playing with 6 cards, or even more.

6 pages of game materials and 2 optional work mats



Full Color Version

Working Memory Brain Games

Improve kids' executive functioning with 5 minutes of partner games a day!

My 3 Facts

Materials: none

Directions: Tell your partner 3 things you did when you first arrived at school this morning. Be sure to say them in order. Have your partner repeat them back to you. Then switch roles! Play again telling 3 other things 3 things you did over the weekend, 3 things you would like to do after school, 3 steps for playing your favorite game, 3 facts about your favorite book or TV show, and so on.

Challenge: Try telling each other 4 facts! If you get really good at remembering what your partner said try 5!

Taking a Trip

Materials: none

Directions: Say a place you would like to go to and something you would bring with you. For example, "I'm going to the beach and I'm taking a beach bag." Your partner then repeats your sentence and adds their own item. "I'm going to the beach and I'm taking a beach bag and some flip-flops." You then repeat the list and keep adding to it. When the list gets too long to remember, start again with a new place and items you would bring!

Challenge: Can you remember 10 items in the list?

What Comes After?

Materials: number cards

Directions: Draw 4 number cards from the stack and place them in order where only you can see them. Say the numbers to your partner and then ask a question about them. For example, "1, 2, 3, 9. What number was after 3?"

Here are some other questions you can ask: Which number came second? What number was last? Which was the first number? Which number was before ___?

Challenge: Use 5 number cards, or even 6!

Name That Number

Materials: number cards

Directions: Put the cards in a face down stack. Take the top card off, look at it, and place the card face down. Say the number that was on it out loud. Then have your partner take the next card from the stack, place it face down next to yours, and say the number you said AND the number on his or her card. Keep taking turns trying to remember and say all the numbers you and your partner have drawn from the stack. When someone makes a mistake, shuffle the cards and play again!

Challenge: Can you remember 10 numbers? See how close you can get!

Number Talk

Materials: number cards

Directions: Flip over four number cards but don't let your partner see them! Read them aloud to your partner and have him or her repeat those numbers back in the same order you said them. Take turns flipping over number cards, saying them to each other, and repeating them back.

Challenge: How many numbers can you remember and repeat? Try practicing with 4, then 5, and keep going!

Build It

Materials: timer, shape cards

Directions: Set a timer for 30 seconds and make any design you want using 5 shape cards. When time is up, you and your partner should look at each other's designs. Try to create an exact replica of their work: use your pieces to make a design that looks just like theirs! When you're done, play again and create new designs for each other to copy.

Challenge: Try using more shape cards: 8 this time, then 9, then 10. Can you still correctly copy each other's designs?

Remember My Design

Materials: shape cards, piece of construction paper (for thick paper)

Directions: Make any design you want using 4 shape cards. Count silently to 10 when you're done to give your partner time to remember your design. Then put the piece of paper over your design to cover it. Can your partner remember your design and use his or her pieces to make one just like yours? Remove the paper from your design and compare them to see! When you're done, switch roles and try to copy your partner's design.

Challenge: Try using 5 shape cards. If you and your partner are successful several times in a row, try using more cards!

What's Missing?

Materials: picture cards

Directions: Take 4 cards from the stack and place them face down in a row. Flip them over slowly for your partner to see and memorize, then flip the cards back over face down. Now turn 3 of the cards face up again, but leave one face down. Can your partner guess which picture is not shown?

Challenge: After your partner has memorized the cards, mix them up before turning them face up again so that they're in a different order! You can also try playing with 5 cards, or even 6!

Find the Rhythm

Materials: none

Directions: Make a rhythm for your partner to copy! You can softly clap, snap, tap your foot on the floor, tap your hand on the table, etc. Start with 3 beats, mixing up slow and fast sounds. Your partner should do the same thing right afterward. After a few minutes, switch roles and copy your partner's rhythm!

Challenge: Try adding more than 5 beats to your rhythm. To really practice your memory skills, you can also try making a rhythm, counting to five, and THEN having your partner copy!

Letter Memory

Materials: letter cards

Directions: Flip over 5 letter cards and ask your partner to memorize them. Then have your partner close his or her eyes and try to say all three letters in order. Flip over a fourth card for your partner and see if she or he can memorize 4 letters in a row. Keep going until your partner forgets the letters. Then, switch roles so that your partner flips over the letter cards and you try to memorize!

Challenge: Can you remember 10 letters?

Recall 3

Materials: your choice of cards (picture, word, letter, or number)

Directions: Take 3 cards from the stack and show them to your partner. Count silently to 10, then flip the cards back over. Can your partner recall (remember) what was on all 3 cards? Take turns flipping over cards for one another and trying to remember what was on them.

Challenge: Add in a fourth card. If you and your partner can consistently remember all four, you could try even more!

Sort It

Materials: picture cards

Directions: Turn all your cards face down and take the top 5 cards. Your partner should do the same with 5 cards of his or her own. You each flip over your own cards and sort them any way you want by color, size, shape, alphabetically, etc! When you're done, see if you and your partner can guess how each other sorted the cards. Then mix the cards up and play again!

Challenge: Add in the word cards, letter cards, and/or number cards.

What's the Word?

Materials: word cards

Directions: Flip over 3 word cards and ask your partner to memorize them. Then have your partner close his or her eyes and try to say all three words in order. Flip over a fourth card for your partner and see if she or he can memorize 4 words in a row. Keep adding more cards until your partner forgets the words. Then, switch roles so that your partner flips over the word cards and you try to memorize!

Challenge: Try adding in picture, letter, and/or number cards!

Say My Letters

Materials: letter cards

Directions: Flip over four letter cards but don't let your partner see them! Read them aloud to your partner and have him or her repeat those letters back in the same order you said them. Take turns flipping over letter cards, saying them to each other, and repeating them back.

Challenge: How many letters can you remember and repeat? Try practicing with 4, then 5, and keep going!

All Mixed Up

Materials: picture, word, letter, and number cards

Directions: Mix up all the cards and place them in one face down stack. Take 5 cards from the stack and place them face up for your partner to see and memorize. Flip the cards back over face down and mix them up. Now turn 4 of the cards face up again, but leave one face down. Can your partner guess which card is not shown?

Challenge: Try leaving 2 cards face down and see if your partner can remember them both! You can also try playing with 6 cards, or even more.

Please Circle: make one copy for each PAIR of students

Number Cards: 0-9. make one copy for each student

Word Cards: make one copy for each PAIR of students

apple	bat	zoo	water
fox	grape	hat	jar
kite	map	egg	pet
dog	star	tent	lemon
cat	queen	red	light

Letter Cards: make one copy for each PAIR of students

A	B	C	D
E	F	G	H
I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P
Q	R	S	T

Letter Cards: Circle each PAIR of letters and use half of this sheet to have the remaining students

Shape Cards: Make TWO copies for each student

Number Cards: Make TWO copies for each student

Number Cards: Make TWO copies for each student

Black and White Version

Working Memory Brain Games
Improve kids' executive functioning with 5 minutes of partner games a day!

Taking a Trip

Materials: none

Directions: Say a place you would like to go to and something you would bring with you. For example, "I'm going to the beach and I'm taking a beach bag." Your partner then repeats your sentence and adds their own item. "I'm going to the beach and I'm taking a beach bag and some flip-flops." You then repeat the list and keep adding to it. When the list gets too long to remember, start again with a new place and item you would bring!

Challenge: Can you remember 10 items in the list?

Name That Number

Materials: number cards

Directions: Put the cards in a face down stack. Take the top card off, look at it, and place the card face down. Say the number that was on it out loud. Then have your partner take the next card from the stack, place it face down next to yours, and say the number you said AND the number on his or her card. Keep taking turns trying to remember and say all the numbers you and your partner have drawn from the stack. When someone makes a mistake, shuffle the cards and play again!

Challenge: Can you remember 10 numbers? See how slow you can get!

Build It

Materials: timer, shape cards

Directions: Set a timer for 30 seconds and make any design you want using 4 shape cards. When time is up, you and your partner should look at each other's designs. Try to create an exact replica of their work: use your pieces to make a design that looks just like theirs! When you're done, play again and create new designs for each other to copy.

Challenge: Try using more shape cards. 8 this time, then 9, then 10. Can you still correctly copy each other's designs?

My 3 Facts

Materials: none

Directions: Tell your partner 3 things you did when you first arrived at school this morning. Be sure to say them in order! Have your partner repeat them back to you. Then switch roles! Play again telling 3 other things 3 things you did over the weekend, 3 things you would like to do after school, 3 facts about your favorite game, 3 facts about your favorite book or TV show, and so on.

Challenge: Try telling each other 4 facts! If you get really good at remembering what your partner said try 5!

What Comes After?

Materials: number cards

Directions: Draw 4 number cards from the stack and place them in order where only you can see them. Say the numbers in your partner's order and then ask a question about them. For example, "4, 2, 3, 9, what number was after 3?"

Here are some other questions you can ask: Which number came second? What number was last? Which was the first number? Which number was before ...?

Challenge: Use 5 number cards, or even 10!

Number Talk

Materials: number cards

Directions: Flip over four number cards, but don't let your partner see them! Read them aloud to your partner and have him or her repeat those numbers back in the same order you said them. Take turns flipping over number cards, saying them to each other, and repeating them back.

Challenge: How many numbers can you remember and repeat? Try practicing with 4, then 5, and keep going!

Remember My Design

Materials: shape cards, piece of construction for other thick paper

Directions: Make any design you want using 4 shape cards. Cover it with a piece of paper so your partner can't see it. Then put the piece of paper over your design to cover it. Can your partner remember your design and use his or her pieces to make one just like yours? Remove the paper from your design and compare them to see! When you're done, switch roles and try to copy your partner's design.

Challenge: Try using 5 shape cards. If you and your partner are successful several times in a row, try using more cards!

What's Missing?

Materials: picture cards

Directions: Take 4 cards from the stack and place them face down in a row. Flip them over slowly for your partner to see and memorize, then flip the cards back over face down. Now turn 3 of the cards face up again, but leave one face down. Can your partner guess which picture is not shown?

Challenge: After your partner has memorized the cards, mix them up and shuffle turning them face up again so that there is a different object! You can also try playing with 5 cards, or even 10!

Find the Rhythm

Materials: none

Directions: Make a rhythm for your partner to copy! You can softly clap, snap, tap your foot on the floor, tap your hand on the table, etc. Start with 3 beats, moving up slow and fast sounds. Your partner should do the same thing right afterward. After a few minutes, switch roles and copy your partner's rhythm!

Challenge: Try adding more than 5 beats to your rhythm. To really practice your memory skills, you can also try making a rhythm consisting of two, and THEN having your partner copy!

Letter Memory

Materials: letter cards

Directions: Flip over 3 letter cards and ask your partner to memorize them. Then have your partner close his or her eyes and try to say all three letters in order. Flip over a fourth card for your partner and see if she or he can memorize 4 letters in a row. Keep going until your partner forgets the letters. Then, switch roles so that your partner flips over the letter cards and you try to memorize!

Challenge: Can you remember 10 letters?

Recall 3

Materials: your choice of cards (picture, word, letter, or number)

Directions: Take 3 cards from the stack and show them to your partner. Count silently to 10, then flip the cards back over. Can your partner recall (remember) what was on all 3 cards? Take turns flipping over cards for one another and trying to remember what was on them.

Challenge: Add in a fourth card. If you and your partner can consistently remember all four, you could try even more!

Sort It

Materials: picture cards

Directions: Turn all your cards face down and take the top 3 cards. Your partner should do the same with 5 cards of his or her own. You each flip the cards over slowly for your partner to see and memorize, then flip the cards back over face down. Now turn 3 of the cards face up again, but leave one face down. Can your partner guess how each other sorted the cards. Then mix the cards up and play again!

Challenge: Add in the word cards, letter cards, and/or number cards!

What's the Word?

Materials: word cards

Directions: Flip over 3 word cards and ask your partner to memorize them. Then have your partner close his or her eyes and try to say all three words in order. Flip over a fourth card for your partner and see if she or he can memorize 4 words in a row. Keep adding more cards until your partner forgets the words. Then, switch roles so that your partner flips over the word cards and you try to memorize!

Challenge: Try adding in picture, letter, and/or number cards!

Say My Letters

Materials: letter cards

Directions: Flip over four letter cards, but don't let your partner see them! Read them aloud to your partner and have him or her repeat those letters back in the same order you said them. Take turns flipping over letter cards, saying them to each other, and repeating them back.

Challenge: How many letters can you remember and repeat? Try practicing with 4, then 5, and keep going!

All Mixed Up

Materials: picture, word, letter, and number cards

Directions: Mix up all the cards and place them in one face down stack. Take 5 cards from the stack and place them face up for your partner to see and memorize. Flip the cards back over face down and mix them up. Now turn 4 of the cards face up again, but leave one face down. Can your partner guess which card is not shown?

Challenge: Try leaving 2 cards face down and see if your partner can remember them both! You can also try playing with 5 cards, or even more!

Picture Cards: Memory game for our Fall of seasons.

Number Cards: Memory game for our Fall of seasons.

0	1	2	3
4	5	6	7
8	9	0	1
2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9

Word Cards: Memory game for our Fall of seasons.

apple	bat	zoo	water
fox	grape	hat	jar
kite	map	egg	pet
dog	star	tent	lemon
cat	queen	red	light

Letter Cards: Memory game for our Fall of seasons.

A	B	C	D
E	F	G	H
I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P
Q	R	S	T

Letter Cards: Memory game for our Fall of seasons.

U	V	W	X
Y	Z		
U	V	W	X
Y	Z		

Shape Cards: Memory game for our Fall of seasons.

Blank Card: Memory game for our Fall of seasons.

Blank Card: Memory game for our Fall of seasons.



BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE...

I'm **Angela Watson**, the creator of this resource. I'm a National Board Certified Teacher with a masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction, and have 11 years of classroom teaching experience and over a decade of experience as an instructional coach. I currently work as a Productivity and Mindset Specialist in the area of educational consulting. In practical terms, this means I author books, design curriculum, and provide professional development services. Everything I do is centered on sharing more effective, efficient, and enjoyable ways of teaching and learning!

I founded my website ([TruthforTeachers.com](https://www.truthforteachers.com)) in 2003 to connect with other educators. You can now find thousands of ad-free articles and resources there from me and our K-12 teacher-writer's collective.

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