



Talking in riddles: I see something ...

“Images and stories encourage us to talk. They also allow us to make connections to our own experiences. In this way, children and adults can have long conversations. This is fun and opens up many linguistic possibilities.” (website “learning opportunities for children up to age 4”)

What you need:

- Story books or puzzle books

What to do:

- Let your child choose the book.
- Start by giving your child a riddle: “I see something that has a red nose.”
- Your child starts looking for the picture element you described.
- Then it’s your child’s turn to create a riddle for you.
- Asking questions and referring to shared experiences gives your child the opportunity to show his/her knowledge of the world, to explain facts and relations and to ask questions in return ...



Source: Unsplash

Some more ideas:

- This activity can be easily adapted according to the age and language development of your child: you can use more abstract descriptions (e.g. *I see an animal that doesn't like snow*), use negation (e.g. *I see an animal that cannot fly.*), increase the number of elements in your description (e.g. *I see something that is yellow and hot and sometimes hides from us*).
- Where your children can read and write, riddles may be written down and read aloud.
- Play the same game using different languages or switch languages within the game (ask the riddle in one language and let your child answer in another language).

Optional link:

The short video “[Hidden object book](#)” shows how to use and enjoy picture books even with very young children. The video is one of 65 available on the website “[Learning opportunities for children up to age 4](#)”, a Swiss project which shows what inspiring language learning on an everyday scale may look like. The video clips are designed for parents and teachers and they are available in 13 different languages.