

Domain and goal

- Begins to identify individual objects by category label
 - Animals
 - Clothes
 - Food
 - Vehicles
 - People
- Theme: Birthdays

Activities

Your child has learned quite a few nouns (naming words) and it is now time to teach him that everything can be known by its category label. This week, teach your child the broader term for all the items he knows by individual names. Children have fun learning category labels because it is the beginning of their cognitive function of classifying similar objects.

Separating objects

Put five each of animals, food and furniture in a bag. Put a doll house, a fence, barn or jungle and a shopping basket or toy refrigerator on the floor. Take an item out of the bag, name it and say it is a (category label) and it goes in the house, fridge, or barn. Let your child take an item out of the bag and name it if he can. Wait while he decides where it belongs. Most children know these category groupings just through observation and non-verbal learning. You are now giving your child the language to match some of the cognitive skills he has already begun to integrate.

Category hunt

Choose a category to teach each day and go on a hunt with your child to find members of the category. Put some hangers and a suitcase on the floor and tell your child you need help finding some clothes to hang up or put in the suitcase. Go around the house and find clothes to bring back and hang up or pack in the suitcase. Each day have a different prop for the category:

- Tool box—tools
- Toy box—toys
- Picnic basket—crockery and cutlery
- Garage—vehicles

Birthday phrases and vocabulary (have a pretend birthday party for Teddy, wrap up some of your child's toys to give Teddy, make a playdough cake, etc.

- Blow out the candles. Cut the cake. Open your present. Say, thank you. Tear the paper. What did you get? Sing Happy Birthday. How old are you? Who came to your party?
- Candles, cake, hot, be careful, blow, blow harder, blow again, more, open, unwrap, ribbon, pretty, paper, ribbon, sticky tape, lollies, ice-cream, birthday, sing, song, card, envelope, mail, party.



Date	What did your child do?