

In the car games

Whether you are on a long car trip or in the car for a short amount of time and need to keep the kids entertained, or just awake, these games are great to keep the kids happy.

"I SPY..." GAME

Each person in the car has a turn and says "I spy with my little eye something....." and the other people have to guess what the person has seen
There are various alternatives here, depending on the age of your children.

Here are some choices and examples of each:

- "I spy with my little eye something that begins with the letter A"
- "I spy with my little eye something that is green colour"
- "I spy with my little eye something that is a circle shape"

"FIRST ONE TO SEE..." GAME

Each person in the car has a turn and says "First one to see.." and the person that sees it calls out the answer eg "blue car" and points to it.
There are various alternatives here, depending on the age of your children.

Here are some choices and examples of each:

- "First one to see a blue car, call out "blue car"
- "First one to see a red light, call out "red light"
- "First one to see a truck, call out "truck"
- "First one to see a yellow number plate, call out "yellow number plate"
- "First one to see a licence plate that starts with the letter S, call out "S" licence plate"

COUNTING GAME

You can expand on the "First one to see..." game and get the children to look out and count the number of blue cars they see, or licence plates that start with the letter "S" or have the number "6" as the first number and so on.

The children can use a blank activity sheet (one of our activities) and then they list the different shapes, numbers and letters depending on their level of understanding, and they can tally up each type they see. This can fill in a fair amount of time on a long trip.

MAKE UP A SONG GAME

You can get the children to make up songs based on what they see outside the car, what is happening in the car, or just get them to choose a topic, by singing to a tune they know and love. For example, you can sing to the tune of Twinkle Twinkle, Old McDonald or Baa Baa Black Sheep. You can start off and give them some idea of what are you asking. Be silly, the kids will love it and you'll have a laugh as well.

For example, if you are driving on a highway, you can sing:

- "Twinkle Twinkle Little Car, how I wonder how fast we go, we need to find something to eat, like a hamburger or a treat", or
- "Baa Baa Black Truck, have you any power, yes sir yes sir 4 horsepower, one for the front wheels, one for the back wheels and one for the driver who honks the horn", or
- "Old McDonald had a blue car, e-i-e-i-o. In that car he had a boy e-i-e-i-o, with a "I'm hungry" here and a "I'm hungry" there e-i-e-i-o..."

RHYMING GAME

Each person has a turn at choosing a word that is good for rhyming. They can look around in the car and outside for ideas. You may need to give them clues for the answers depending on their age.

For example: if you say "rain" – rhyming words are train, plane, pain, gain, cane, main

- If you say "sun" – rhyming words are fun, bun, done, nun, none, run, tonne, one, won
- if you say "tree" – rhyming words are bee, see, key, me, knee, fee, she, pea, flee, wee
- If you say "sky" – rhyming words are fly, bye, my, shy, pie, tie, lie, sigh, why
- If you say "road" – rhyming words are toad, load, code, mode
- If you say "hair" – share, care, bear, bare, dare, fair, mare, rare, wear, pear