



UKG – INTERACTIVE PUZZLE ACTIVITIES

The Importance of Puzzles in Early Childhood Education

- Enhance Problem Solving Skills - Puzzles can also help children with pattern recognition and memory.
- Additionally, puzzles provide your child with the opportunity to practice trial and error.
- Build Hand-Eye Coordination - Flipping, rotating, moving and manipulating the pieces allows children to tune their fine motor skills.
- Strengthen Cognitive and Memory Skills - Puzzles are perfect for helping the cognitive skills of children, especially pre-schoolers.
- Number puzzles are a great learning tool for young children who are just beginning to build number sense and learn basic math skills like counting and number recognition.



The Three Basics of What Puzzles Do for Your Child

When your child is alone with a puzzle you can expect three basic skills to be built:

1. **Physical skills** -- from holding puzzle pieces and turning them until they fit.
2. **Cognitive skills** -- as they solve the problem of a puzzle.
3. **Emotional skills** -- they learn patience and are rewarded when they complete the puzzle.

These three basic skills are the building blocks for a well-rounded person. As Nancy Maldonado states in an article [External link](#), puzzles allow “an opportunity for young children to focus on an activity that has an ending,” completing the pleasing image.

In addition to these three basics, doing a puzzle with a friend or family member also allows for the growth of social skills as they work together and communicate about what fits where.



The following links show how children can engage in interactive puzzle activity with their own self, with family and friends.

<https://youtu.be/rAbqUcjkwhg>

<https://youtu.be/DdIxvNrnXQ>