

# Summer Fun



# Get ready to have fun!

Summer is always so much fun! With warmer weather, the children can spend more time outdoors playing and exploring. Here are just a few ideas of things you can do with your group to enjoy the summer season.

**Chase and Pop Bubbles** - Try to pop the bubbles with different body parts. This is a fun way to reinforce the names of body parts while building gross motor skills.

**Tree Leaf Match-Up** - Pick one leaf (nontoxic, of course) from each tree or bush in your backyard. Put them in a bag. Have the children pull out a leaf and then find the tree it matches. This is a great way to build visual discrimination skills!

**Have a Parade!** - Children LOVE music and having a parade is so much fun. They can play rhythm band instruments (if you have them) or bang on pots and pans with wooden spoons. Play recorded marching music and listen for patterns.

**Paint with Water** - Use paintbrushes and/or paint rollers to “paint” fences or sidewalks with water. Now would be the perfect time to make & test predictions, introduce the concept of evaporation and so much more.

**What Happens When...?** - Locate a few broken crayons. Challenge the children to predict what they think will happen if they put the broken crayons on a paper plate in the sun. Write down their predictions ... talking about words, letters, sentences and punctuation in the process. Compare predictions to actual results.

**Summer Safety** - Sunscreen. Sunglasses. Insect Safety. Staying Hydrated. There are so many different topics to cover during the summer. Now is the perfect time to reinforce all of these concepts and more.

**Grass Prints** - Paint the grass using washable paint and brushes, rollers or even sponges. Then, while the paint is still wet, press white paper on top to make amazing prints. Encourage the children to make predictions about what they will see before they lift the paper.

**Find and Photograph** - Take your cellphone outside and invite the children to find things they want to photograph. Then, print out the photos (on white paper) and use to create a book. The children can dictate text for you to write down to accompany each photo. Talk about letters, words, sentences, etc. while doing so. Once finished, assemble the pages together, add a cover and add to your Language area.

**Nature Sound Bottles** - Locate an empty plastic water bottle with a lid for each child. Remove the lids and put out of reach. Then, challenge the children to find items in your outdoor play space that will fit inside the bottles (e.g., small twigs, little stones, etc.). This is great for problem-solving! Once the children are happy with the items inside their bottles, put some glue inside the cap and screw on tightly. Allow the glue to dry before inviting the children to shake their bottles. What happens?

**Vacation Role-Play** - Add old suitcases, backpacks, purses, clothes, etc. to your Dramatic Play area that the children can use as they pretend to go on vacation. Take these items outside one day so the children can incorporate them into their free play.

**Summer Teacher Resources** - There are some really fun printable resources on the next few pages you can use to reinforce the season of summer & promote family involvement.

# Summer Lotto Game

**Purpose:** As children play this fun game, they will develop visual discrimination skills, matching skills, fine motor control and both expressive and receptive language skills.

**Preparation:** To prepare the Summer Lotto Game, print out a copy of the page for each child. Cut apart following the dotted lines. To create a Summer Lotto Game for your manipulative center, mount the printout to sturdy paper and then cut apart. You can even cover with clear Contact® paper if desired.

**Use:** To play the game, talk about the pictures on the playing card with the children. What are their experiences with each one? Why are all of the items related to the season of summer? Challenge those children who are more verbal to share. Then, mix up the individual cards and turn them face down. Have the children take turns picking up a card. The children will then match the card they pick to the one on the playing card.

**Alternate Use:** Hide the individual cards. Have the children find the cards and then match to the playing card.



# Summer Patterning

**Purpose:** The purpose of this material is to help children practice visual discrimination, patterning and language skills.

## **Preparation:**

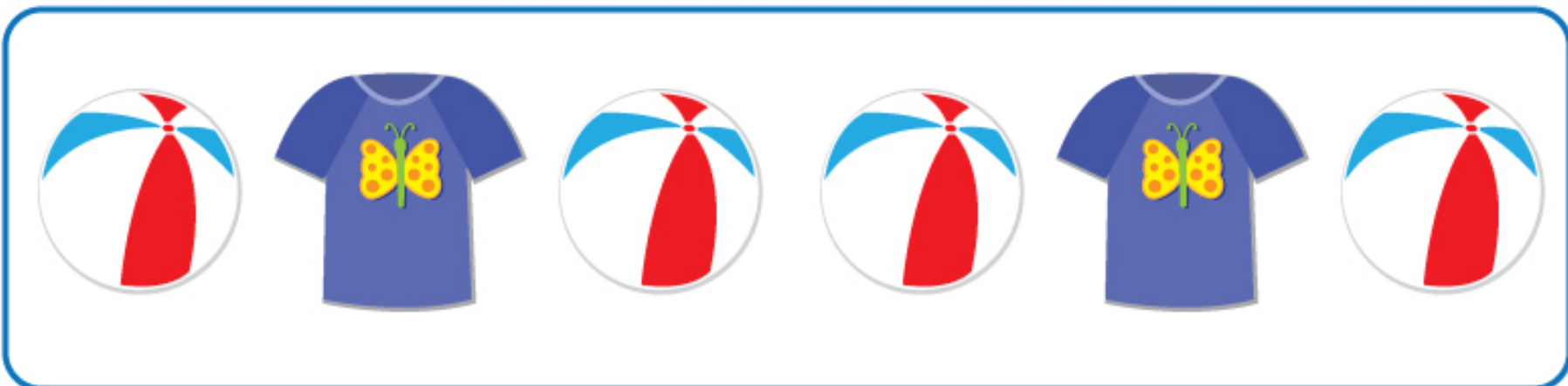
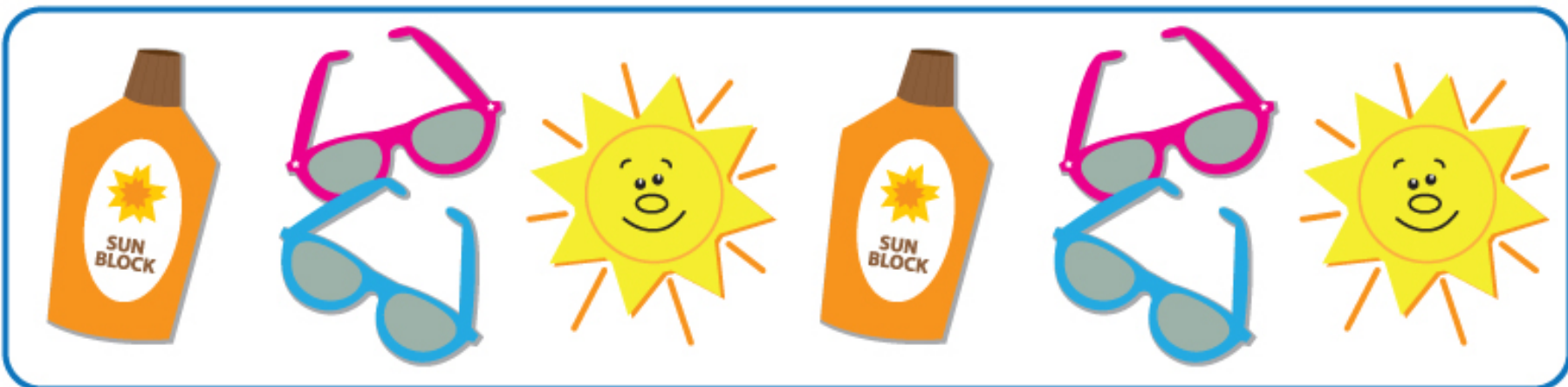
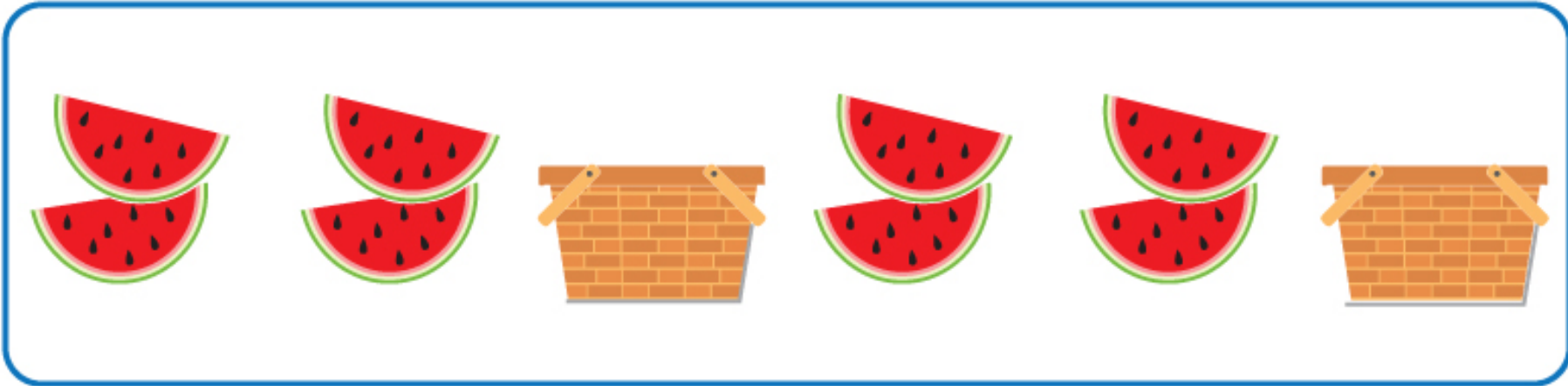
Just print out the Summer Patterning materials on the next two pages and cut apart. Put the individual cards in a small pail or sand bucket. If you want to make the game more durable, mount to heavyweight paper or print on that type of paper if your printer allows. You are also more than welcome to print out a copy for each child to take home as well.

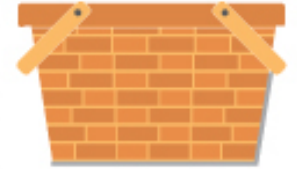
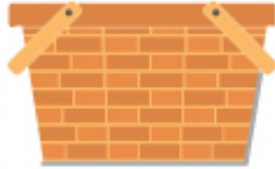
## **Use:**

Show the children the bucket/pail containing the individual cards as well as the pattern strips. Challenge Have the children take turns pulling a card from the bucket/pail. Talk about the picture on the card. What are the children's experiences with this item? Then, have the children match the card to the picture on the patterning strip. Repeat until all of the cards are used.

**Extension:** For more advanced children, use the pattern strips and cards to practice extending and creating patterns.

**Alternative Use:** The individual cards could also be used for a matching game.





# The Thing I Like Best about Summer

**Purpose:** The purpose of this material is to provide children with the opportunity to practice expressive language skills, make connections between spoken and written language and, of course, build fine motor control.

**Preparation:**

Print out a copy of the following page for each child. If children need more than one copy, no problem! We are also providing a Spanish version of this material

**Use:**

“What do you like best about summer?” Pose this question to the children and encourage them to share. This is a great discussion for reinforcing the concept that everyone has different likes and dislikes ... and that is what makes us unique. After the children finish sharing, provide each child with a copy of the sheet and crayons/markers. Invite the children to draw pictures that show what they like best about the summer season. Those who are more advanced can dictate text for you to write down on their creations. Be sure to talk about letters, sounds, words, sentences and punctuation while doing so.



The thing I like best about summer is...



Lo que más me gusta del verano es...

# Summer Dominos

**Purpose:** The purpose of this material is to provide a material you can use to reinforce visual discrimination skills in a fun way. You will want to adapt how you play this game depending on the developmental levels of the children in your group. See options below.

**Preparation:**

Print out the following pages for the Summer Dominos game. Mount each page to heavyweight paper (or print on this type of paper) and cut apart following the dotted lines.

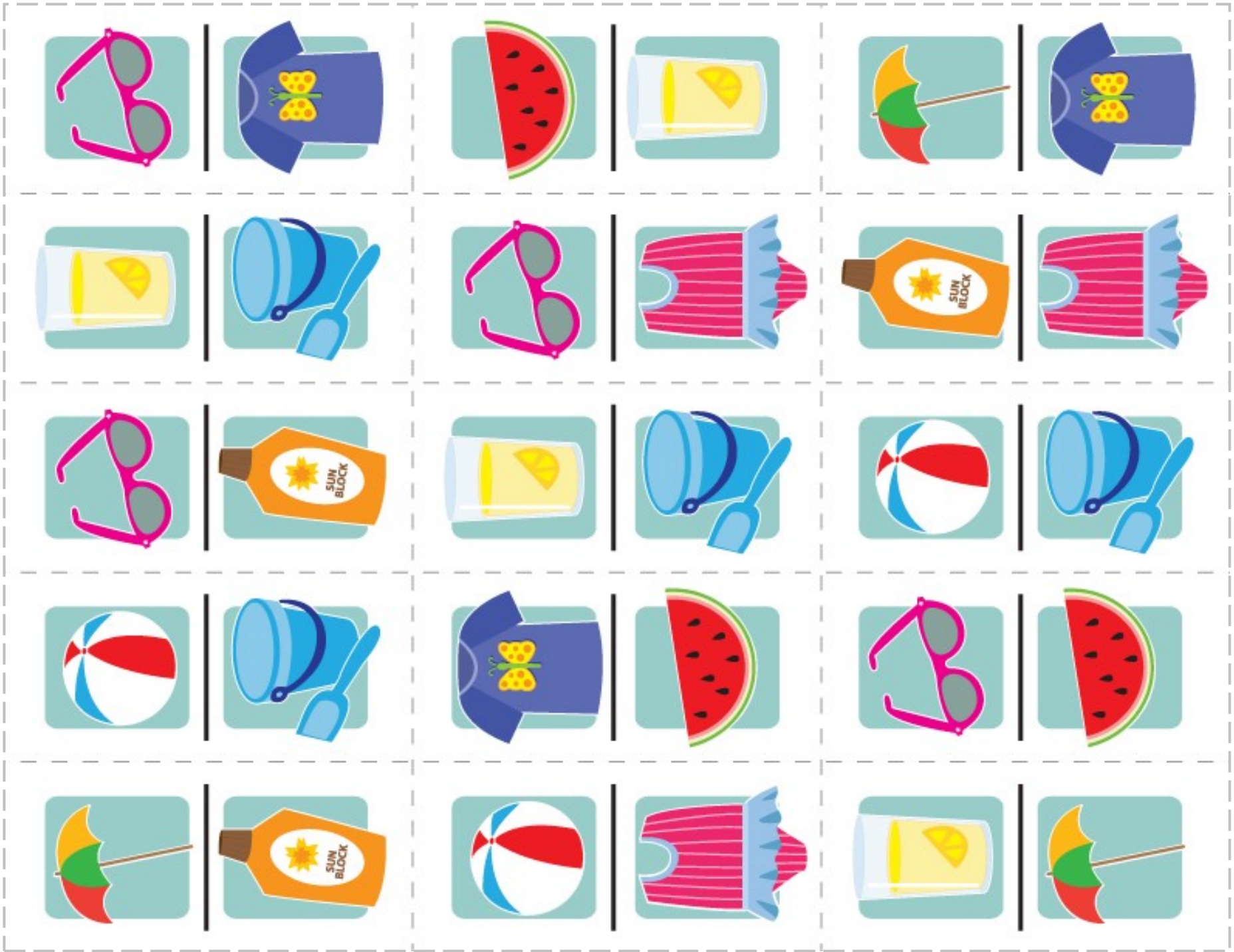
**Use:**

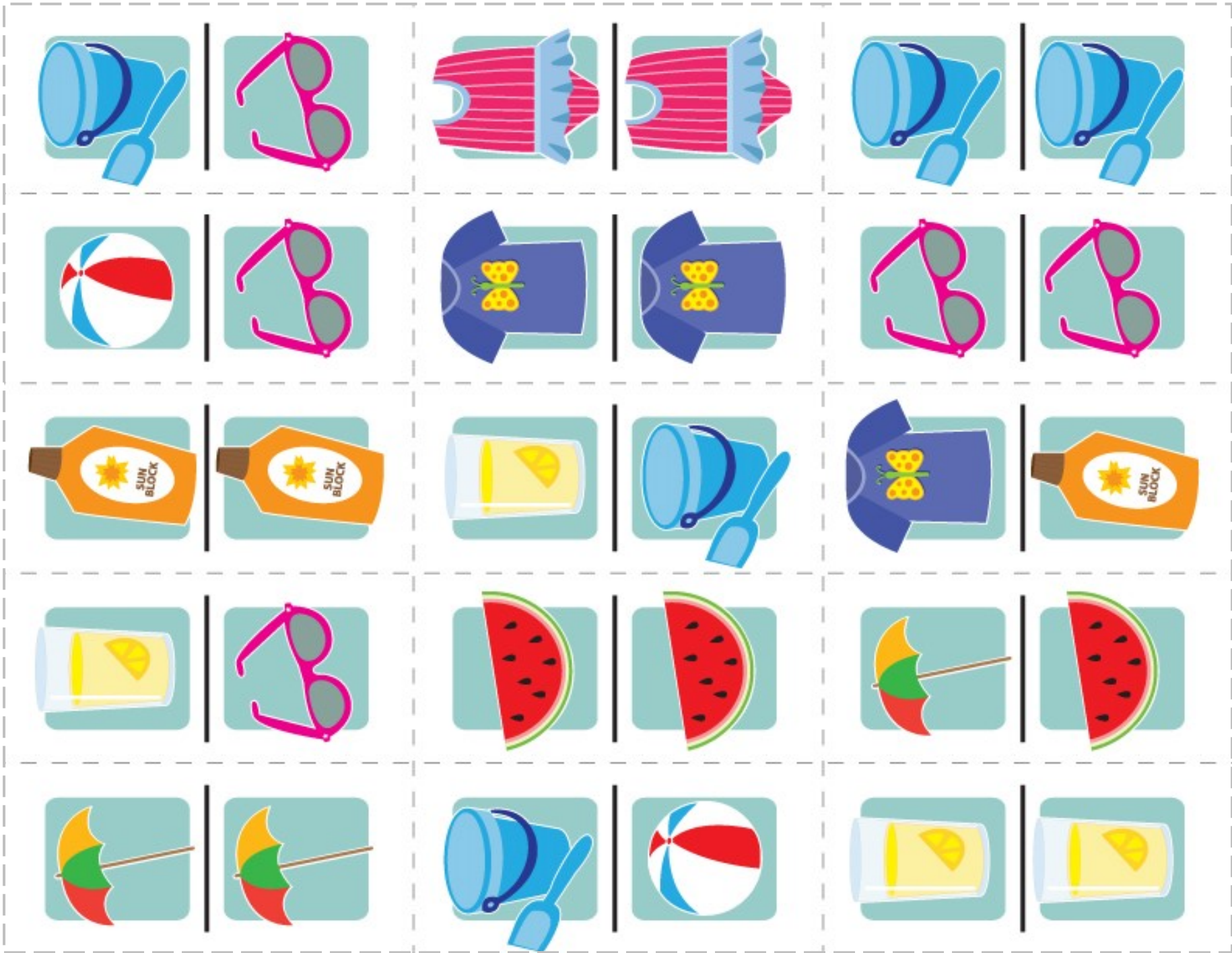
You can use these cards to play dominos with the children. Adapt and modify for different developmental levels. Here are a few ideas on how you might do this.

**TODDLERS/TWOS:** For these children, put the dominos cards in a bag and invite the children to take them out. Talk about the items on the cards as the children remove them from the bag. Then, they can put them back in the bag. This age group loves to put things in and take things out.

**THREES:** Pick up one of the cards and point to one of the items. See if the children know the name of the item. Can they then find a matching item and place them end to end?

**FOURS/ADVANCED PRESCHOOLERS:** These children can play dominos in the traditional way. These children should be able to identify the items featured on the dominos.





# What's Different?

**Purpose:** The purpose of material is to help the children problem-solve while using visual discrimination skills. This experience also helps the children utilize language while enhancing vocabulary.

**Preparation:**

Print out the following two pages.

**Use:**

Look at the images with the children and encourage those who are more verbal to share what they see. Then, put the images side-by-side and challenge the children to find the 5 differences between the scenes. Here are the differences:

1. The boy's pail is now a teddy bear
2. The boat is missing
3. The umbrella a different color
4. The girl's shell is now carrots
5. The beach bag is now a crab





# Special Offer!

The Gee Whiz Education Curriculum is designed specifically for FCC programs and:

- Includes activities for **ALL ages** in one curriculum
- Is **open-ended** and encourages children to learn through exploration
- Is **aligned** with state/national standards and **approved** in many states for QRIS programs
- Uses common **household materials** to save you money
- Provides access to **training webinars...at additional no charge!**



To check out our special offer: <https://geewhizeducation.com/special-offer/>