

Ollie's shopping bag

How to play

Make up a story about Ollie going shopping, or use this one. Ask your child to remember what's in Ollie's bag.

“Ollie went to the corner shop. He bought a tin of beans and put it in his bag. Then he bought some cheese and put that in his bag. Next he bought a magazine. Ollie got on the bus and went home. But, oh no, he'd left his shopping bag behind. Can you help Ollie remember what's in his bag?”



This game will help your child to deal with more than one piece

of spoken information at a time. At pre-school, the helper might say, "Wash your hands and then sit at the table" so children need to remember and act on two pieces of information. It takes time to get good at listening and holding information in your head. Playing "Ollie's Shopping Bag" is a great way to build this core skill.



TOO EASY? You can increase the number of objects in Ollie's bag. You can also take turns at being the storyteller and the person who remembers. When your child is telling the story, they are still developing their memory.



TOO HARD? Cut out pictures of items for Ollie's shopping bag. Tell the story and show each picture as you say the name, then turn it over. If needed, use the pictures again to help your child remember. Or make up a story with only one item, then two and so on.



MAKE YOUR OWN VERSION: You can make up a story about almost anything; for instance, a dog going for a walk and seeing different things along the way or a visit to the seaside.