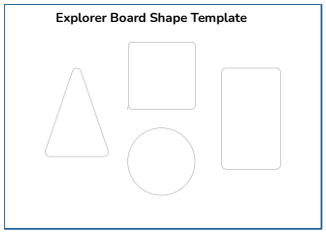
# Ideas for the *Wooden Jigsaw Explorer Image Board (EY04177)*

An open-ended peg puzzle board with an easy to change slotted space to place photos and inserts. Comes with five ready-made inserts- fruit, veg, farm animals, minibeasts, and pets but it is easy to make your own bespoke inserts to suit different needs and interests. You could use photographs of real objects or images that hold meaning. For example, use pictures of the child with their family to promote sense of self. We have included a template for you or the children to make your own inserts. Click on the link:










**Great for developing:**

- hand-eye coordination,
- dexterity,
- fine-motor skills,
- manipulation,
- shape and colour recognition,
- orientation,
- pattern matching,
- concentration,
- persistence and memory.

Every time you play with the Jigsaw Explorer new discoveries can be made giving opportunities to talk about what you see. There are many possibilities for the board. Here are some of our ideas to get you started. We hope you enjoy them.

# Ideas and Inspiration

## Peep-a-Boo Idea

Babies and young children love repeating simple actions and using the Peep-a Boo idea they can explore what's under the shapes to reveal different pictures. Great for curiosity and bringing an element of surprise!

## Exploring Shapes and Colours

Call out a shape or colour for the children to find and lift off. Talk about the shapes and go on a shape hunt to find things that are that shape around the room. Discuss the colours and extend vocabulary by using other colour words such as crimson, ruby, navy, turquoise.

## Familiar Object Hunt

Create an insert with familiar objects you might see around the classroom or home such as a desk, chair, sofa or teapot. Where can you find these objects and what are they used for? Go on a hunt to find them. You could make it more challenging finding smaller objects such as a shell, key or apple.

## Play Games

Play matching games where you have to remember what is under each shape and find it to match another picture which is the same or nearly the same. You could play it like a game of Snap which is great for observation skills. Another game you could play is Bingo, using the shapes to cover up the pictures as the names, descriptions or clues are called.

## Explore Patterns

Look at patterns on animals like stripes on zebras and patches on giraffes. Encourage the child to work out which animal the pattern is from and to find the picture of the animal on the board. The children could make their own patterns using the insert template. Get them to really look closely and copy stripes, swirls, zigzags, etc.

## Developing Language

The pictures can be useful for children who are learning a new language and the board can be used in a fun way to reveal and name the objects together. It can also be used to introduce new vocabulary for a topic such as naming trees, plants and other living things. Use activity pictures for example, someone running, brushing their teeth, jumping, combing their hair to encourage the use of verbs. Or use the language of prepositions with pictures of a bird in a tree, a cat on the roof, a girl under an umbrella, etc.

## Be Creative

Allow the children to use the templates to draw things that relate to their individual interests. Place them in the frames for them to uncover and talk about.

## Letters or Numbers

Place pictures of items behind the frame that can be matched to a letter or number. For example, a picture of an apple to match to the letter a, or a picture of a flower with four petals to match to the number 4.

## Explore Topics

Use to explore topics such as materials. You could have real photos of a wooden rolling pin, a cotton tea towel, a metal saucepan or a woollen jumper. Discuss the materials the item are made from and why they are made from this material and not another.

## Story Telling

Place pictures of characters from stories e.g. Goldilocks, the Gingerbread man into the frame and as they are revealed talk about the characters and the story they are from. Find the book and read it together and then retell the story in your own words. You could then use the insert template to create your own story board for the story to share with others.

***Enjoy and have fun with your Wooden Jigsaw Explorer Image Board. If you have any brilliant ideas for using it then please share them with us, we'd love to hear from you.***