

Gardening Expressions



“Expressions” is a fun and rewarding activity that draws out responses from the most unexpected participants. Because the expressions and answers are on “cue” cards that can be handed to the person for them to read on their own, they can often be more successful at completing the phrase.

This free sample is a small set of our full Expressions activity, which can be used with individuals or small groups.

Benefits

- Great cognitive exercise
- Can be played by almost anyone
- Reaction to the expressions is almost automatic

Prepare the Activity

Print out all three sheets. Cut the Expression cue cards into quarters and the answer cards into eighths. If you have a laminator, it is best to laminate the sheets before cutting them.

Basic Preparation

It’s easy to overlook, but the success of any activity can depend on some basic preparation.

Preparation

- Is the person comfortable?
- Is the area free from distractions?
- Is the lighting in the room appropriate for this activity?
- If the person requires glasses, are they wearing them?
Are they clean?

When possible, you should demonstrate the activity first, showing what is expected while using as few words as possible to describe it. When you are finished the activity, thank the person for participating and ask if they would like to do it again sometime.

Presenting the Activity

Activity One

1. Hand the person one of the Expression cue cards and give them time to see if they read it out loud and complete the phrase. If they don't read it, prompt them to read it aloud.
2. If they don't give you the expected response (that is, they give you a different word or no word at all), say the word and encourage them to read the expression again. If they continue to have trouble with the phrase, remove the card from the group and don't use it with this person.
3. Encourage discussion about the expression. Repeat this with the rest of the cards in the group.

Activity Two

1. Select three Expression cue cards and the corresponding answer cards. Place the answer cards face up in front of the person. Tell them that you are going to play a game.
2. Demonstrate by reading an expression out loud (without completing it), then picking up the appropriate answer card, reading it out loud and placing it face down on the table.
3. Say "Now you try". Hand the person an Expression cue card and let them read it aloud and find the answer.
4. Repeat for the other cards.

Variations

1. As the person becomes more familiar with the activity, place more answer cards in front of the person.
2. Increase the number of Expression cue cards but not answer cards leaving some expressions with no matching answer card.

Presenting

- Hand the person a card and see if they read it out and complete the phrase
- If not, say the word and encourage them to read it again
- Talk about the expression
- Play a game - put 3 expression cards and their answers face up
- Read an expression (without completing it)
- Pick up the matching answer card, read it out loud and turn it over
- Hand the person an expression card and let them find the answer

you reap what you

life is a bowl of

sow

cherries

fresh as a

take time to smell

the

daisy

roses

a gardener has a
green _ _ _ _ _

thumb

cool as a
_ _ _ _ _

cucumber

busy as a _ _ _ _

bee

lead down the
garden _ _ _ _ _

path

sow

path

thumb

daisy

cherries

cucumber

roses

bee