

Truck Talk (3–4 years)

Vroom Tip: When you're out for a walk or drive, point out all the different trucks for your child. See if they can guess what's inside by the pictures on the outside of the truck. Try to imagine together where the contents come from. Do the veggies come from a farm? Or the fish from the sea?

Brainy Background: This kind of game helps your child think like a scientist by looking for clues in pictures. If they make a mistake, point them to a picture with a better clue. "See the apple on the truck? Does that help?"

Car Clappers (3–5 years)

Vroom Tip: Sitting in traffic makes anyone antsy. So turn it into a clapping game with just a few simple rules. If the radio is on, have your child clap to the music. If you turn the radio off, they stop clapping and freeze.

Brainy Background: Changing the rules of the game requires your child to think flexibly and respond to new information, instead of just going on autopilot. This kind of focus and self-control is an important skill that we use everyday—even as adults!

Truck Mysteries (3–4 years)

Vroom Tip: When you're out for a walk or drive, point out all the different trucks for your child. See if they can guess what's inside each of them by the pictures and words on the outside of the truck.

Brainy Background: This kind of game helps your child think like a scientist, looking for clues in the pictures and words about what's inside the truck. If they make a mistake, give them a better clue. "See the apple and a word that begins with an F—it's fruit."

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Mississippi Thrive
presents

Road Trip
Vroom Tips™!

For 3–4 year olds



Thrive while you ride!

Name That Tune (3–5 years)

Vroom Tip: Start humming a song your child knows and have them guess what it is. If they guess wrong, start over and hum the tune again. After a few guesses, you can add in some words to the song as hints. After a few tries, let them try a tune while you guess.

Brainy Background: This game helps your child focus and pay attention to sounds—which is important in communicating, reading, and writing—and it’s fun too!

Wheel Watch (3–4 years)

Vroom Tip: Encourage your child to point out the different kinds of wheels they see. Talk with them about what you both notice. Do they see big wheels on a truck or thin wheels on a bike? What else can they think of that has wheels?

Brainy Background: By listening and responding to your child, you’re helping build their vocabulary and ability to focus. Grouping things, like finding what is the same and what is different, also helps them become better at making connections.

Fill in the Blank (3–5 years)

Vroom Tip: Fill in the blanks to make up a story: “We’re going to _____. When we get there we’ll see _____.” As your child gets in the rhythm, take turns going back and forth. Is your story realistic? Make believe? There is no right or wrong, just have fun!

Brainy Background: Creating a “Fill-in-the-Blank” story means your child is thinking and cannot go on autopilot. They have to shift their thinking to a new and changing story line. Thinking in flexible ways builds problem solving skills.

Rhyme Time (3–5 years)

Vroom Tip: Pick a word and take turns saying words that rhyme with it. Keep going until you run out of words that rhyme. Then let your child pick a word. See if you can come up with silly ones to keep it fun like “slinky, pinkie, stinky.”

Brainy Background: Rhyming games, like this one, help your child focus on word sounds. This will help with reading and writing later on.

Guess Who (3–5 years)

Vroom Tip: Ask your child to think of a family member or friend without telling you who. Have them give you hints until you guess who the mystery person is. Then it’s your turn to pick a person and their turn to guess.

Brainy Background: This guessing game helps your child with critical thinking skills. They use these while figuring out the important things about a person to use as clues.

Would You Rather? (3–5 years)

Vroom Tip: Ask your child questions like, “Would you rather be a bird or a fish? Why?” Have them give you a few reasons from real-life experience like, “I love the water so I want to be a fish!” Then you take a turn answering their questions!

Brainy Background: Asking and answering questions helps develop reasoning skills—especially when you ask questions that go beyond simple yes or no answers.

Sentence Mixer Upper (3–5 years)

Vroom Tip: Sometimes it can be fun to mix things up as you make statements like, “Your banana is blue. I wear shoes on my ears,” or “This ice cream is hot.” Give your child a chance to correct you and show how much they know before they take a turn mixing things up.

Brainy Background: In this game, your child compares what they know about the world to your mix-ups. Playing helps them develop the thinking skills of paying attention to details and using information they know in fun and flexible ways.