

Sign Game (4–5 years)

Vroom Tip: When you're out and about, point out simple signs and ask your child what they think they mean. If they get it wrong, remind them it's a good try, and ask them to keep trying. Point out clues! (There is a barber inside, so the sign says "Haircuts").

Brainy Background: Helping your child look for clues about what words mean is an important step in learning to read, write, and communicate, as well as developing critical thinking skills.

Counting Cars (4–5 years)

Vroom Tip: Before you go out, ask your child what color of car they think is the most popular. Invite them to count how many cars of that color they see along the way. At the same time, you look for a different color and keep track too. Then talk about what you found out together.

Brainy Background: Your child is using critical thinking to do this, just like a scientist. They first come up with an idea (the popular car color) and then they test it out (counting the cars). They must use their memory to keep track of the number of cars and focus to tune out distractions.

Fortune Teller (4–5 years)

Vroom Tip: Talk with your child as you drive, take a bus, or however you get around. Ask them what they think will happen when they get where you are going. You could ask them who they will see, or what they will do when they get there. What will they do after that? Stretch the chat by continuing to ask what will happen next.

Brainy Background: Talking back-and-forth like this is good way to help your child develop their language and communication skills.

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Mississippi Thrive
presents

Road Trip
Vroom Tips™!

For 4–5 year olds



Thrive while you ride!

In the Right Order (4–5 years)

Vroom Tip: Have your child look for letters or numbers in a specific order on signs and license plates. You can say, “Can you find a one and a two next to each other?” or “Can you find an A and an E next to each other?” Take turns and see who can find the most.

Brainy Background: Your child must pay close attention to their surroundings to find letters or numbers and keep track of what they have seen and how many times. They’re also using their working memory to remember the correct order to look for.

Count the Sounds (4–5 years)

Vroom Tip: Take a few minutes with your child to stop and listen. Ask them what they hear. Does it sound like anything else they know? Have them guess what you hear. Together count how many different sounds you each hear and figure out what they are. How many can you guess?

Brainy Background: Children learn when they use their senses. When your child listens, identifies, and counts what they hear, they’re using many of their senses, which promotes focus, memory, and making connections—skills that support reading and math in the future.

Double Vision (4–5 years)

Vroom Tip: Have your child look for doubles of letters or numbers on signs and license plates. You can say, “Can you find two E’s on one sign outside?” Take turns and see who can find the most.

Brainy Background: Your child must pay close attention to their surroundings to find letters or numbers, and keep track of what they have seen and how many times. They also use self-control when they wait for their turn.

Car Clap Off (4–5 years)

Vroom Tip: Find a certain color car and clap once when you see it. When your child gets it, change the rules and clap twice when you see it. Then add another color and clap three times when you see it.

Brainy Background: This game calls on your child to pay attention, to remember the rules of the game, and to think flexibly when you change the rules and not go on autopilot—which are all important learning skills.

The ABC Game (4–5 years)

Vroom Tip: When you’re out and about with your child, play “The ABC Game.” Take turns spotting each letter in the alphabet from A to Z on road signs, billboards, cars, licenses, and more! Write out the letters so they can match them with what they see.

Brainy Background: The “ABC Game” helps your child practice making connections—where your child matches letters with what they see in the world around them. They’re also learning letters, which helps them learn to read and write.

Today’s To-Do (4–5 years)

Vroom Tip: Talk back and forth with your child about the plans for the day. Maybe you can chat about what you’re having for breakfast. Where are they going for the day? What might you do together? Or what are you both excited to do today?

Brainy Background: There is no better way to learn how to plan than practicing. Giving your child a chance to think about the day ahead helps them use what they already know in new and flexible ways.

Color Countdown (4–5 years)

Vroom Tip: Challenge your child to find as many things as they can that are blue. Get creative by limiting the game to a specific time (three minutes or so) or place (the grocery store.) Have them count how many they find. Switch it up by looking for letters or objects instead.

Brainy Background: Your child is practicing focusing in this game. They are also using their memory to remember the color and the number of times they have seen it. Playing this game with different rules helps your child learn to think flexibly and make new connections.