



Primary



Lower El

Focus

Art & Language

EXERCISE 11

Parent Objective

To foster your child's observational skills and vocabulary enrichment.

Indirect Objective

Preparatory work for learning how to draw what you see—versus what you *think* you see.

"There is in the child a special kind of sensitivity which leads him to absorb everything about him, and it is this work of observing and absorbing that alone enables him to adapt himself to life."

Dr. Maria Montessori, *The Absorbent Mind*



Benevolently Provided by
Judy Laidlaw

View more resources at:
resources.montessori.agency

Maria Montessori's Education of the Creative Mind

Not from Planet Earth Game

Materials: (None)

Preparation:

This is a fun game that encourages close observation of the world. The child is challenged with using purely descriptive language—specifically, adjectives and adverbs—to describe an object. Metaphors and similes are off limits.

Your best bet is to initially try this game in a room very familiar to your child. Later, try the game outside or at an unfamiliar location, like waiting for your food to arrive at a restaurant.

Instructions:

1. Invite your child or children to play the "Not from Planet Earth Game."
2. Explain that you are going to pretend to be from another planet, visiting Earth for the very first time.
3. As a resident of [insert favorite planet], you are unfamiliar with everything Earth. Ask the child to pick an object in the room and, without telling you what it is, describe it.
4. Referencing an apple, for example, your child might respond, "It's a fruit." Your response, "I'm not from planet Earth. What's fruit?" Your child might also say, "It's like a ball." Your response, "I'm not from planet Earth. What's a ball?"
5. Keep challenging your child to use only descriptive language: color, texture, line orientation, shape, value, flavor, smell, sound, etc., until the object is clearly described in sufficient detail.
6. Now, it's the child's turn to be the alien life form and you the Earthling.
7. Take turns and enjoy!

