

One of the best things our kids can do to learn a new skill is to practice it over and over again. That's why flashcards are so popular. They allow us to drill the same skill repeatedly. We use flashcards in speech therapy for learning new speech sounds as well as new language skills. But, drilling flashcards is not very exciting. That's why I've come up with a list of fun activities you can do with your flashcards to make them more fun.

- Play a game with your child. Have him practice 3 flashcards before each turn.
- Find a toy that has a lot of pieces. After your child practices 3 flashcards, give him another piece to the toy (like tracks to a train set).
- See how many flashcards your child can do while holding a pose (yoga pose or something simple like standing on one foot).
- Have your child perform an action each time he does a card (like jump or clap).
- Throw a ball back and forth or shoot baskets after every 3 flashcards.
- Put a plastic coin or small token (a bean will work) in a jar for every card completed. See how many your child can get in 5 minutes.
- Create a simple mailbox (with a slot). "Mail" each card after your child says it by having him put it in the slot.
- Have your child be the teacher and show you how to do each card (do it wrong on purpose sometimes so he can correct you).
- Hide the flashcards around the house and have your child practice each card as he finds it.
- Record your child doing the flashcards and have him evaluate his own performance.
- Tape the flashcards to the walls in a dark room and turn off the lights. Give your child a flashlight and let her hunt for the cards. When she shines the light on a card, she has to do that card.
- Tape the flashcards to a wall and shoot them with a dart gun or nerf gun. Have your child do whatever card his dart hits.
- Put all of the flashcards in a bag or box and have your child pull one out without looking. Have your child do that card.
- Lay the flashcards on the floor and have your child gently toss a beanbag or small stuffed animal onto the cards. Your child must practice whichever one he hits.
- Calculate the percentage of cards that your child does correctly. Chart it on a bar graph. The next time you practice, calculate a percentage again and challenge your child to see if he can beat his old score.
- Place all flashcards in a large ziplock baggie. Seal the baggie with extra air in it (so it's inflated). Take the baggie into the bathtub and have your child shake it up during bath time. Have your child practice whichever card is on top after he shakes it.