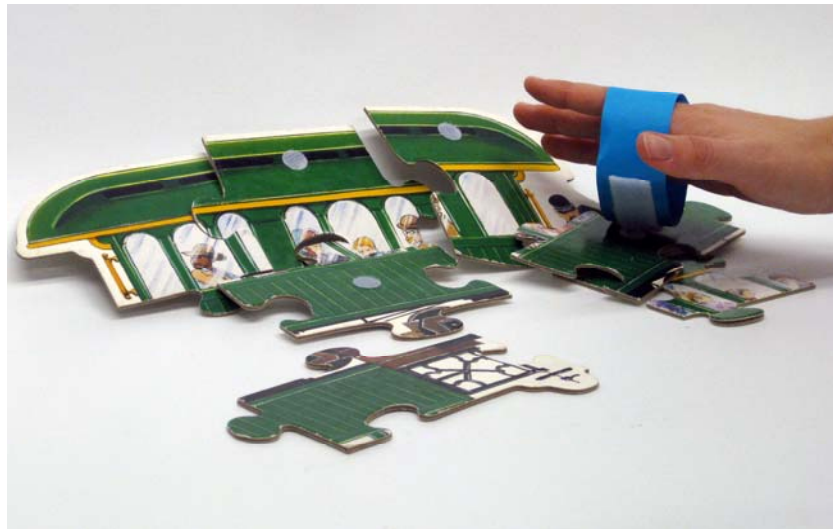


Ideas to Share

Adapting Puzzles



A child that has difficulty grasping objects may be unable to manipulate puzzle pieces. For some children, simply cutting notches into the side of each of the puzzle pieces may make them easier to grasp. Adding handles of some kind to puzzles can also make them accessible. A knob, empty thread spool, or section of dowel rod may make a handle that a child can grasp. If the puzzle came with knobs, but they are too small, simply replacing them with larger knobs can make the puzzle accessible. If the child cannot grasp a handle, adapting the puzzle with Velcro may be the solution. A small piece of loop Velcro can be placed in the center of each puzzle piece. Then a mitt or strap with hook Velcro can be placed on the child's hand. Now, the child can pick up and move the pieces without needing to grasp them. Magnets can also work. A metal thumbtack can be pounded into each puzzle piece. Then, the child can use a mitt, strap or stick with a magnet on it to remove the puzzle pieces.

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These ideas have been gathered from various resources included (a) submissions from early interventionists across the country, (b) development by Tech-n-Tots staff, or (c) retrieved from various websites focusing on assistive technology. If you have an idea to submit, please send a description and photo to: jill.McLeod@jefferson.edu