



Sharpening Children's Minds: playing with pictures, words and sounds


(This article was first published in *Resources*, number 21, October 2004.)


Have we as teachers ever thought how relaxing, yet challenging, it will be to present our children with a 'game' such as the following? It will definitely sharpen their minds and keep them fruitfully engaged for some time. Perhaps, working in groups could help the more as well as the less able students. It will surely make them think deeply while enjoying themselves. One immediately realises that the children will need some rough paper to work out the 'puzzles'. The first one is being given as an example.


1.  - u + jan = Kristjan.


The picture shows Christ (Kristu). Remove the letter 'u' and you get Krist. Add 'jan' to 'Krist' and you get Kristjan, which is the correct answer.

2.  + tuffieħa = _____


3.  - a + in = _____

4.  - a = _____


5.  - a + uka = _____


6.  - ġas + ċa = _____


Teachers are encouraged to come up with other examples, perhaps even variations to the above. Consider the following example.

7. Saħħa + = 

The child has to put 'ra' in the box above. Added to 'saħħa' one gets the word 'saħħara', represented in the picture.

8. Balla - a + = 

9.  - za + = mogħdija

10. Pi + + ross = 

After working the examples given above, children are to be encouraged to invent a couple themselves. Working individually or in groups, they are bound to find the task greatly motivating. The more we involve students, the greater the guarantee that learning is taking place.

Leonard Grech (EO Assessment)