



Name of activity:

“I Spy”: Taking a look at things around us that we overlook or don’t notice

This activity would work best for:

- Students in grades JK – 1
- Students in grades 2 – 4
- Students in grades 5 – 8
- Students in grades 9 – 12

What you need for this activity:

Your eyesight, at least one other person to “play”, and good questioning skills.

What you need to do, step by step:

- The people engaged in the activity confine the objects they “spy” to the room they are currently in. You have to actually be able to see the thing you want people to guess.
- One person is the “spy” who says, “I spy with my little eye something that is _____ (colour).” For example, if I am the spy, I may look around and gaze up and down and left and right several times. Do not look directly at the object when saying the line. Once I know what it is I am “spying,” I say the line, “I spy with my little eye something that is blue.”
- The other player(s) each in turn get a chance to guess: “Is it _____?”
- The spy answers simply YES or NO.
- When the person guesses correctly, all focus on the object. Talk about how it is so obvious OR how obscure it is!
- The person who guessed it gets to be the next spy!

How you could easily adapt / change this activity:

- Instead of the colour being the clue, make it something like a shape “I spy with my little eye something that is “round” (or some other variation).
- Instead of the objects in a room, use a catalogue or a picture book with rich images to spy something.
- Instead of just guessing, you have the option of asking a “yes or no” question about the object: “Is it on the bookshelf?” or “Is it bigger than _____?” This might give someone else a better chance, but it also means you may know more when it is your next turn.
- Play a round for each person participating and at the end decide who had the most interesting object, who was the best spy, and who was the best guesser.