

**Inset Puzzles**

Start with a simple 4 piece inset puzzle with large pegs and the image below the puzzle pieces. As your child becomes more skilled you can increase the number of pieces and introduce puzzles that are blank underneath each piece.

**EXPLORE:** allow your child to explore the jigsaw, give them time to do this without intervening at first, then as time goes on look for the following, can they:

* **Remove all the pieces?** if so, label each piece for them as they remove them; ‘*bus, car, train etc’.*
* **Bang the pieces together?** If they do this mirror their play and use words to describe the noise you are making *‘bang, bang, bang’*
* **Try to place the pieces?** If they are starting to have a go at placing the pieces give them lots of encouragement and allow them to experiment with where they go giving them verbal support ‘*in there? No, in there? yes!!’* Model placing all but the last piece, can they put it in? Can they place the last two pieces, the last three pieces etc? Help them to manipulate the pieces into the correct place and give them lots of praise.

**EXTEND:** now that your child has had time to explore the jigsaw, support and extend their play with it, here are some ideas:

* **Making a choice:** can your child choose which jigsaw piece they would like to place when you offer them a choice of two? Hold the pieces up at eye level to encourage them to make eye contact. ‘*Car or train?’* They can make their choice by reaching, looking or saying the word. Reinforce their choice by repeating it back to them ‘*you chose the car’* give them the piece and support them to place it.
* **Finding a piece:** can your child find a named jigsaw piece and give it to you?
* **Picture/ shape matching**: if the puzzle has the pictures below the pieces encourage them to find the piece with the matching picture. If there is no picture draw their attention to the shape.
* **Completing the puzzle:** can your child complete the whole puzzle? With your support and encouragement can they stay on task until all the pieces are placed?