

# Floor Puzzles

## Primary Objectives

11b. Persists

21b. Understands shapes

## Why It's Important

In this activity, your child will gain confidence and use eye–hand coordination and fine-motor skills as he works to put together a simple puzzle by himself.

## Materials

Several large floor puzzles

## What You Do

1. Provide several large floor puzzles and invite your child to choose one. You can also make your own puzzle by outlining your child on a piece of cardboard, having him color it as he wishes, and then cutting it out into puzzle pieces.
2. Invite your child to put the puzzle together in a large, uncluttered area on the floor. Encourage him to start with the corner pieces.
3. Observe your child as he works. Help him get started if needed, but let him take the lead. Notice when he needs encouragement. Offer help when asked. *We can work on this together. I'll do one piece, and then you do one.*
4. Ask your child questions about the shapes and colors of the pieces and how they might fit together. Engage him in discussion as he works. *What do you think this piece is showing us? I think you're right. It looks like part of the picnic basket.*
5. When the puzzle is complete, encourage him to talk about the finished picture. Allow him to do the same puzzle again or ask him if he would like to try a new one.
6. You can make this experience more challenging over time by incorporating puzzles with more pieces and smaller pieces.