Useful websites:

Barrier Games - The Bell Foundation
How to use Barrier Games to work on communication.docx

Additional Resources that you could consider:

- Battleship game
- 3D shapes to play guess the shape
- Felt picture boards
- Connect four
- Noughts and crosses

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BARRIER GAMES

A guide for parents

What are they?

Barrier games are games or activities played with two people with a visual barrier between them. One player instructs the other about what to do with the activity or game in front of them. The barrier between them means that players cannot check their progress visually by looking at the other player's work but is simply reliant upon the verbal instructions provided.

A Little More Information

Barrier games are great at engaging children as the activities are motivating and play based and can even be based around their interests and preferences.
Barrier games work on a variety of different skills and are beneficial to all children.
Some examples of skills that barrier games support to develop are:

- understanding of language
- expression of language
- attention and listening
- self help skills - by asking for an instruction to be repeated
- understanding specific vocabulary
- social skills
- problem solving

To start all you need is a barrier which can be as simple as a book blocked the view or a piece of material hanging down. You then need 2 sets of an activity, one for each

Some Examples

The great thing about Barrier games is that you don't have to buy specific resources in order to use this approach. Lots of toys and activities that you already have at home are suitable.
List of things that you might have around the house:
building blocks
Lego
colouring in books
pencil and paper
dolls and clothes
sets of farm animals
sets of different toy cars.

Ways to use the above examples as barrier games:

- Have the same colours and amount of bricks or blocks and build the same model or tower.
- Using 2 of the same colouring books, instruct each other on how to colour the same picture.
- Use pens, blank paper and describe how to draw the same picture.
- Have 2 dolls and matching clothes. Instruct how to dress the doll up.
- Use farm animals and a grid printed on a piece of paper. Instruct where to place the different animals onto the grid. You could also use cars for this.

