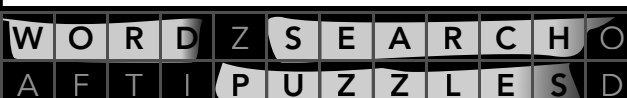


# Literacy This Week



Yukon Literacy  
Coalition

*We are a society of people dedicated to improving the quality of life of all Yukoners. We do this by building the foundational skills required for lifelong learning; acknowledging that we are all adapting to an everchanging world.*



Originating in Spain in the 1960s and is known there as "Sopa de Letras" (Soup of Letters), the objective of a word search is to locate a list of words hidden on a grid. As each of the words is located, they are circled on the grid and then struck from the list. The purpose of a word search is to entertain, educate, and bring people together.

Word search puzzles come in a variety of levels making them suitable for all ages and are now accessible online as well as in paper format. They are particularly beneficial to children as they can boost a child's learning.

## 9 REASONS WHY WORD SEARCH PUZZLES BENEFIT CHILDREN:

1. They help with spelling. Word games can help to reinforce spelling in a child's mind, particularly in the case of puzzles.
2. They make a child work faster. Practicing word puzzles, help improve a child's processing speed, so they are able to arrive at the correct answer, faster. This skill is transferrable to other tasks that require quick thinking.
3. They boost working memory. Working memory is the 'conductor' of the memory system, helping both long-term and short-term memory to work together. Word puzzles where a child has to access vocabulary from memory, can help to improve working memory, which, in turn, can have a positive effect on learning and achievement.
4. They extend vocabulary. The more words a child encounters and understands, the broader their day-to-day vocabulary will become.
5. They encourage problem-solving. Many word puzzles require not just a good vocabulary and a knack for spelling, but the ability to think logically and strategically.
6. They are good for competitive children. Whether a child is racing a sibling to see who can solve a puzzle fastest or competing in an online spelling challenge against someone in another country, word puzzles can encourage a healthy sense of competition, and provide an incentive for children who struggle with motivation.
7. They're fun for the whole family. Solving word puzzles can be a good opportunity to have some regular bonding time.
8. They appeal to techie children. Technology is very popular amongst this generation of children. Doing word puzzles online or on a console can be a crafty way to make computer-mad children more enthusiastic about words.
9. They're portable. A good old-fashioned puzzle book is a brilliant tool for those moments when you need a cheap, quiet and portable way to keep a child amused, whether that's a road trip, camping or during an important meeting – and you can guarantee easy entertainment.

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