Newspaper Activity

The Newspaper Activity actually involves several different tasks. First, get as many newspapers as you have participants. The newspapers don’t necessarily have to be the same; try to get large newspapers (e.g., New York Times or Sunday papers) for high-functioning participants and smaller newspapers (e.g., local ones or mid-week papers) for lower-functioning participants. Scramble the order of each newspaper, such that all the original pages are there, but in random order. Then, give each participant a scrambled paper and ask them to put the pages in the original order, just as they would be if they had just purchased the paper.

After the participants have completed the above task, ask them to find and circles all the ‘m’s’ on the first page. This task can be made more difficult by asking them to keep a running total of the number of letters they have circled. They should count aloud so participants have to inhibit listening to others. The task can be made even more difficult by having them find and circle 2 or even 3 letters at a time.

Then, after the above task is complete. You can give participants scissors, tape, and blank paper. Ask them to cut out words or letters to make a sentence or poem. The participants can tape the words or letters from the newspaper onto the blank paper.