

# Connect Four

 ice tray	 teaspoon	 tea towel
 shoes	 bread knife	 broom
 teddy bear	 tyre	 glasses (spectacles)

tough

soft

hard

flexible

The next step after playing this Connect Four game is to talk together to produce another version of the game. You need to decide on objects made of different materials and explore the ways in which these materials can be described. Or you can think up the most inviting/revolting descriptive words and think of the objects that suit them.

Connect Four activities have been part of our talk for learning repertoire since we worked with Andrew Wilkinson in Birmingham in the 1960s. Sorting, parent of C4, provides opportunities to introduce and explore the language around a curriculum topic. 'Oracy' was invented by Andrew, to describe the kind of conversation that takes place during sorting. Purposeful conversation helps to clarify different meanings and the similarities and differences between them. It is reflective and nuanced and includes a lot of careful listening. Playing C4 games, usually over and over again, consolidates vocabulary and refines meaning. It is ideal for children new to English working with more experienced talkers.

