## What's a fun way to help children build strong brains?

# **The Serve and Return Origami Game**

Scientists say the way to help children build strong brain architecture is through "serve and return" interactions. A child reaches out for interaction ("serves"), and the caregiver responds ("returns"). Here's a serve-and-return game to play with toddlers and up. Find a small friend and have some fun!

### BUILDING STRONG BRAINS TENNESSEE





#### How to fold



Cut the game out and place face down.

Like this.



Fold all corners to the centre.



You now have

a square.

Turn the square over.



Fold corners to the centre to make



Insert your fingers.



a small square.



Ta-da!

## **How to play**



- 1. Get a partner.
- 2. Ask your partner to pick a word (Let's, Build, Strong or Brains).
- Spell the word. As you say each letter, open and close the game frontwards and sideways to show the numbers inside. (Ex. "Let's" goes frontwards, sideways, frontwards, sideways.)
- Ask your partner to pick one of the four numbers. 4.
- 5. Count up to the number out loud while opening and closing the game.
- Ask your partner to pick a number. 6.
- 7. Open that number. Read the instructions to your partner.
- 8. When your partner is finished, switch roles!





