Mr. & Mrs. Potato Head
Domain I: Attending to Faces and Understanding Facial Structure

**GOAL:** The goal of this activity is to promote attention to faces and to facilitate the child’s understanding of the configuration of facial features.

**OBJECTIVE:** Constructing faces using *Mr. & Mrs. Potato Head* as a model will reinforce the child’s understanding of the structural features of a face (e.g. eyes, nose, and mouth) and their spatial arrangement or configuration. This exercise also encourages selective attention to faces over non-face objects (e.g. hat, glasses, arms etc.). This activity can be done one-to-one or in a group.

**MATERIALS:** Printable *Mr. & Mrs. Potato Head* forms and face parts (option: *Mr. and Mrs. Potato* head doll and detachable parts)

**PROCEDURE:**

Step 1: Print and Cut

With the child(ren), cut out the *Mr. & Mrs. Potato Head* parts along their shapes. There is no need to cut out the potato forms as they will serve as the base for your potato
creations! Printing on heavier paper such as card stock will make stronger pieces to work with. Laminating is a good option for those who would like to re-use their Mr. & Mrs. Potato Head forms and parts. Alternatively, you can print and cut using magnet paper for a great magnetic activity you can use on its own or on a magnetic surface such as a refrigerator. Magnet paper for printers can be purchased at any office supply store.

**Step 2: Put it Together**

Explain to the child(ren) that they are going to be constructing a face using Mr. & Mrs. Potato Head. Review the face parts and their correct spatial configuration by asking the child to pick out the potato face parts from the potato objects and then arrange the face parts how you would normally see them presented on a face (e.g. eyes above the nose, mouth below the nose). As tutor, you may want demonstrate.

Next, encourage the child to construct their own Mr. & Mrs. Potato Head by placing the parts on top of the potato form. They can choose from a selection of eyes, noses, and mouths. The object is to select these parts from the non-face parts and place them on the potato form in the correct spatial configuration (tutor can offer feedback or correction if needed). Finish your potato head by adding on the non-face parts. Try as many combinations as you wish…no matter how silly!

**Step 3: Mix it Up!**

Now, construct a potato head that that doesn’t make any sense! The Mr. & Mrs. Potato Head creations can be scrambled, have missing parts, incorrect spatial configuration, or what ever your imagination can come up with. Encourage discussion about what’s wrong with the face and why.
Mr. & Mrs. Potato Head
Forms and Parts
Mr. Potato Head
Mrs. Potato Head
- Eyes
- Nose
- Moustache
- Purse
- Wings
- Ears
- Shoes
- Arms

X Cut parts along their shape
Cut parts along their shape
Cut parts along their shape