

Speech and Language Therapy Activities

Understanding of Language

Understanding prepositions

What are they?

Prepositions are words that tell you where something is, for example "in", "on" and "under". It is important that your child understands these words so they can carry out instructions.

How can you help?

The following tips can help to develop your child's understanding of prepositions

- Give your child instructions to follow during play and everyday routines.
- Describe where things are around the house, for example "the plate is **on** the table"
- Do these activities many times!
- Lots of repetition will help your child learn!



Activities to try:

Books

Look through picture books together and talk about where things are. For example "the pig is **in** the barn", "the flowers are **on** the table", "the dog is **under** the bed". Ask your child to find the picture.

Routines

Give your child instructions to follow during familiar routines, for example, washing and dressing:



- E.g.
- 'put your toothbrush **in** the pot'
 - 'put your jumper **in** the drawer'
 - 'put your cup **on** the table'
 - 'put your chair **under** the table'

As your child knows the routine they can focus completely on the language you are using and the activity they are doing. At first they may use the context as a clue, but work up to them following the instructions without any objects as clues.

Treasure hunt

You will need: Toys / objects

Encourage your child to hide objects for someone else to find by giving them instructions to follow e.g. put the 'hat **under** the chair', 'put the ball **under** the bed'.

Fun with toys

Choose some toys to help practise the prepositions, for example teddy, doll, dolls house furniture, table and chair, a box etc.. In school you could use equipment such as books and pencils, tables and chairs! You will need toys/objects that you can move around and things that the toys can go in, on or under!

First show your child what the prepositions mean. Choose a toy, e.g. a teddy, and demonstrate using the preposition, for example put it on the table when saying "teddy **on** the table!" Emphasise the preposition.

Put teddy under the table and say "teddy **under** the table!"

Put teddy in a box and say "teddy **in** the box!"



Where are you?

Use the prepositions to describe what your child is doing. For example if they are sitting on a chair say "_____ is **on** the chair!" or if they are in bed say "_____ is **in** bed!"

Listening game

Give your child a toy and tell them where to put it. For example "put teddy **under** the table"

If your child struggles with this activity show them what you want them to do first, so put teddy under the table, saying "teddy **under** the table", then give your child teddy and ask them to "put teddy **under** the table"

Play this game with lots of different toys to help your child learn to use the prepositions in different contexts

Prepositions you could practise are:

- in
- on
- under
- behind
- in front
- next to
- between