

Speech and Language Therapy Activities

Expressive Language

Using 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 can use these words.

Your child is ready for these activities if they can understand the prepositions. If they find this difficult look at the "understanding prepositions" activities first.

How can you help?

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

- Do activities that improve their understanding of prepositions
- Use the prepositions yourself to show your child how to use them
- If your child makes a mistake, model the correct preposition by repeating what they have said with the appropriate preposition. Don't ask them to repeat it for you. The focus is on them hearing the correct production.
- Do these activities many times!
- Lots of repetition will help your child learn!



Activities to try:

Books

Look through picture books together and encourage your child to tell you where things are. For example "where is the pig?" "the pig is **in** the barn".

Routines

Encourage your child to tell you where things are during familiar routines, for example, washing and dressing:

E.g. 'where is your toothbrush?'
'your jumper is . . . '

'where are your socks?'

As your child knows the routine they can focus completely on the language they need to use and the activity they are doing.

Treasure hunt

You will need: Toys / objects

Encourage your child to hide objects for someone else to find. It is then your child's role to help your or another child find the objects by giving them instructions to follow e.g. 'the hat is **under** the chair'



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!

Put the toys and objects in different places. Encourage your child to tell you where you have hidden them!

You could also ask your child where you should hide the toys!

Where are you?



Encourage your child to tell you where they are using the prepositions. For example "where are you?" "I'm **in** my bed!"

Prepositions you could practise are:

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