

## Prepositions

Prepositions are words that describe the position of an object. They include words such as: **'in'**  
**'on'** **'under'** **'in front'** **'behind'**, **'next to'**

Your child needs to hear new words being used many times before they will be able to understand and remember the meaning. Your child may then be ready to start using the words themselves.

The best way to begin is to use objects to show your child what the words mean. Pictures can be used later on when your child is beginning to have an understanding of what the words mean.

Choose 2 of the words to focus on to begin with and introduce more later as your child begins to learn the new words.

### Below are some suggestions of activities:

#### Hide and seek

- ⇒ Collect together a bag of objects. These can be anything at all e.g. car, cup, Bob the Builder, teddy, hat, etc. Also use some bigger items e.g. chair, table, box etc. Take one item out of the bag at a time. Ask your child to close their eyes while you 'hide' the item, for example under the chair. When they open their eyes, help them to find what you have hidden and say the word 'under' lots of times for them to listen to "look, Bob's under the chair". Repeat this until you have used all the objects.
- ⇒ As your child becomes familiar with the words, see if they can follow your instructions and put objects where you tell them to. E.g. "put the car on the table", "put teddy under the box" and so on.
- ⇒ When you are confident that your child understands the meaning of the words you can encourage them to tell you where the objects are hidden. They could also take a turn giving you instructions to put the objects in different places.



## Everyday activities/ situations

Children often learn new words in natural contexts or in everyday situations, so use these to emphasise prepositions. For example, when looking for the remote control, you might say 'oh here it is, it's under the chair' or when looking for your keys, you might say 'they are in my bag / on the table'

Choose the word(s) you are focusing on and use them as much as possible during everyday activities. It can be useful to pick a certain part of the day or activity where you are going to concentrate on doing this rather than trying to do it all the time. For example, when shopping say the word 'in' as you put each item into the trolley.

While playing with your child's toys comment on where things are e.g. "the train's going under the bridge", "the girl's on the bike" etc.

Occasionally ask your child where things are and see if they can tell you. It can be helpful to offer them a choice e.g say "is it on or under?" if they have difficulty thinking of the right words to use.



## Picture games

Use pictures showing people / objects in different places.

You can use these for any different activities that your child might enjoy. Talk about the pictures and where things are while you play games such as:

- posting pictures
- lotto
- picture matching
- hiding pictures around the room
- colouring in/sticking

**Remember it is more difficult for your child to understand prepositions in picture form than in real life.**