

Prepositions

What are they?

A preposition is a word that describes the position of an object, e.g. in, on, under, beside, between, behind, and in front of.

How you can 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, e.g. 'The plate is on the table', or 'The toys are under the table'
- Lots of repetition will help your child to learn.

Everyday Prepositions

We use prepositions in our everyday conversation without being aware that we are using them. As you go through your daily routines emphasise the prepositions you use in your conversation and point out to your child when they are using a preposition in their actions, e.g.

'Put your shoes in the wardrobe'

'That book goes on the shelf'

'Dad's paper is under the sofa.'



Comment on your child's actions, e.g.

'Well done, you put your coat on the hook!'

'Look, your car is in the box!'

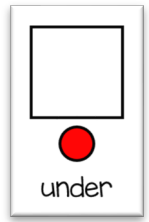
'Oh, you found your shoe under the table!'



Understanding under

Why is this important?

It is important that your child understands and uses the word under. Some children find that under is the easiest preposition to learn because it has two syllables which you can emphasise as you speak , 'un—der'.



How you can help

- Gather together some toys and place them under things in the room. When your child finds something, they must say where it was, using the preposition, e.g. 'It was under the cup', or 'It was hidden under my bed'
- If your child uses the wrong preposition, or doesn't respond, offer a choice, e.g. 'Was the car in the box or was it under the bed?'
- When everything has been found, play the game again, but this time, ask your child to put the toys under things and tell you where to find them.

Easier activities

- Use signs/gestures for under
- Hide some objects on things to begin with. Then move onto in when your child is using on consistently
- Give your child a choice of where the object is hidden, e.g. 'Is it on the table or under the table?'
- Reduce the pressure by taking turns to say where things are hidden.

Advanced activities

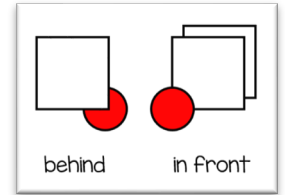
- When your child is using under consistently, reintroduce in and on and work towards identifying the difference between all three prepositions
- Share books, encouraging your child to say what or where things are, e.g. 'The ducks are under the tree', or 'The river goes under the bridge'.



Understanding behind and in front

Why is this important?

It is important that your child understands and uses the words behind and in front to describe the location of objects or people.



How you can help

- Gather together a few favourite character toys
- Explain that the toys are going to play a game and your child is going to put them in different places. Say to your child;
 - *'Put Spiderman behind the curtain'*
 - *'Put Barbie in front of the chair'*
 - *'Put teddy in front of the fridge'*
- You can use things around the room or move items on the table, e.g. cup, car, book. Ask your child to, 'Put Spiderman behind the cup!'
- Remember to sit next to your child for this activity so that you are both looking at things from the same perspective.

Other activities

1. Vary the prepositions and include ones targeted earlier, e.g. in, on, under
2. Introduce other prepositions, e.g. next to and between
3. Vary the toys used. You could play with the farm or the garage
4. Play a 'Hide and Seek game - with real people hiding or hide toys and describe where they were found.

