



Understanding Early Concepts - Prepositions

What are prepositions?

Prepositions describe the position of an object or person.

Examples of commonly-used prepositions are:

Develops by around 3-4 years	Develops by around 5 years	Develops by around 6 years
In	Behind	Between
On	In front	Over
Under	Next to	

Children usually learn prepositions in this order and at approximately these ages. Some children have particular difficulties learning these concepts and need to be shown and taught them. Work on the prepositions the child does not know; start with the earliest ones to develop first, and work up to those suitable for the child's age.

Activities

Hide and seek

Choose the prepositions you want the child to work on. Hide a selection of objects 'in, on, under' other objects (or whatever the target prepositions are). Ask the child where the object is. If they have difficulties with this give them the model response, e.g. 'the car is under the chair'.

Snap

Use pictures of toys (objects) hiding in the different positions you are working on. Play snap. Every time someone wins a pair they have to describe what is on the picture using the correct preposition so they can keep the pair. If they can't use the preposition, the cards are returned to the pile.

Lotto

Make a lotto board with pictures of children or toys in different positions. Cut up a matching set and place these face down on the table. Take it in turns to choose a card and match the pictures to the game board. As each player chooses a card they describe the picture using the correct preposition. The first person to find all the cards on their board is the winner.

Where am I?

Take turns to hide and get the child to hide in different positions. Encourage the child to say where you are and where they are using a complete sentence with the correct preposition, e.g. 'I'm hiding behind the table'.

Stepping stones

Stick pictures of different prepositions onto card. Number them from 1 to 12 and place them at intervals across the floor. Throw two dice and tell the children to stand on the picture that matches the number rolled. They then have to describe the picture they are standing on. If they use the preposition they mark down on a piece of paper the number of each picture. The person to have successfully stood on all the cards is the winner.

