

Baby TALK Preschool Activity

LANGUAGE ARTS - LITERACY

Positional Words

- Preparation
- Assessment
- Affiliation
- Observation
- Developmental Behaviors
- System of Support
- Baby Talk System of Care
- Reflection - On - Action
- Documentation

Purpose

Learning positional words provides your preschooler with the opportunity to better verbalize her understanding of spatial awareness (the ability to be aware of oneself and/or objects in space.) Positional words are “ideas” or descriptions of where an object is rather than objects themselves, which is why the demonstration of positional words through the manipulation of objects is the best way for your young child to understand their meaning.

Materials

- Box (small shoe box)
- Toys (small enough to fit in the box)

Let's wonder together

When might your child use positional words such as in, out, on, off, over, under, behind, and beside?

Why do you think children develop positional words later than many other words?

Why do you think your child may understand positional words before using them verbally herself?

Activity

Invite your child to play a game with you.

Present her with a box and a toy.

Use directional words to have your child place the toy in relation to the box. Begin with “Put the toy **IN** the box.” “Take the toy **OUT** of the box.” “Place the toy **UNDER** the box.” Continue with many instructions using directional words including: in, out, on, off, over, under, behind, and beside.

If your child is unsure, demonstrate with a box and toy of your own.

EXTENSION FOR OLDER PRESCHOOLER:

Take turns having your child follow your directions with positional words and give you directions to follow.

Increase the complexity of the game by beginning the directions with “Simon Says.” If “Simon Says” isn't in front of the direction, the child isn't supposed to follow the direction.

Try adding more directional words to the game such as: left of, right of, in the middle, between.



Speak using
conventions of
Standard
English

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What do you think about this?

- How did you help your child successfully participation in this activity?
- How could you personalize this activity to make it more engaging for your child?
- Which positional words is your child confident in? Which positional words can you focus on reinforcing?
- How might you use positional words in your daily routines with your child?

Application for Social Emotional Development

Understanding directional words helps your child to understand and follow more specific instructions. Encourage a greater understanding of positional words when giving your child directions such as, "Put your toothbrush **in** the **top** drawer of the bathroom," "Wait for me **beside** the car," or "Bring me the papers from **under** my purse."

ILLINOIS EARLY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARD(S):

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Primary | (1.D) Speak using conventions of Standard English. |
| Secondary | (1.A) Demonstrate understanding through age-appropriate responses.
(30.C) Demonstrate skills related to successful personal and school outcomes. |