

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!'*

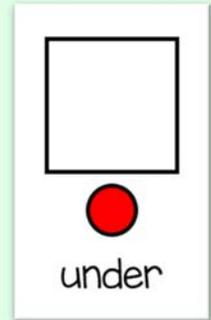
*'Oh, you found your shoe **under** the table!'*



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

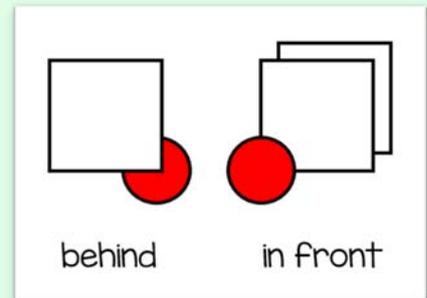
- When your child is using **under** consistently, reintroduce **in** and **on** and work towards identifying the difference between all three prepositions
- Share books, encouraging your child to say what or where things are, e.g. '*The ducks are **under** the tree*', or '*The river goes **under** the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

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