**Talking, listening, questioning**

Prepositions, words that tell us where something or someone is, can be tricky for young children to grasp. Here are some fun activities to try to help your child understand what it means when we say ‘in, on, under, next to, behind, in front, on top, through’ etc.

1. **Treasure Hunt:** Hide ‘treasure’ somewhere in your home or garden. Make up 5 clues to lead your child to the treasure, for example:

1: Look under the table

2: Look on top of the TV

3: Look next to the microwave

4: Look behind the curtain

5: Look in the cupboard

You’ll need to read the clues out when they find them, but remember to number them to support number recognition, number names, and ordering.

1. **Create an obstacle course:** you can use furniture or things around your garden. Here are some suggestions:

* Crawl under the table
* Weave in and out of the chairs
* Jump over the cushions/ pillows
* Stand on the mat and count to 10
* Run around the washing basket

You could make this into a race with you and your child(ren)!

1. **Draw what I say:** this is a more tricky, but funny, activity. Draw a simple picture of a face, but don’t show your child. Give your child simple, step-by-step instructions to draw exactly what you say. For example:

* Draw a large circle in the middle of the paper
* Draw 2 small circles inside the big circle, near the top
* Draw a small triangle under the 2 small circles
* Draw a curved line under the triangle

Compare what your child has drawn to your own picture ☺ You can try a house, a flower, a butterfly…the list is endless and the final pictures are usually very funny.

1. **Simon says:** a traditional game but remember to give instructions with prepositions as the main focus. For example: “Simon says…”

* Put your hand under the chair
* Put your hands behind you
* Put your teddy under the bed
* Put your teddy on top of the pillow

You can also model using prepositions when you play with your child, eg “I’m going to put my train through the tunnel” “My doll is going to hide under the bed”

1. **I spy:** another traditional game, but this time with a twist. Instead of using initial sounds or letters, or even colours, use prepositions to describe what you are ‘spying’. For example, “I spy with my little eye, something that is….”

* Next to the cup
* Behind the fruit bowl
* In front of the TV
* In the box

You can do this using pictures in books too. If you have any Usborne books, there is a little yellow duck hiding on every page. Ask your child to describe to you where it is.

