



Prepositional Language Activity Pack

Prepositions are little words with a big responsibility!

If we break the word ‘Preposition’ into parts, we have PRE + POSITION. A preposition is a word that is positioned before (pre) another word or phrase, and relates directly to the position of the second word in space or time.

Prepositions play a key role in the development of children’s grammatical understanding. Being able to give your child directions such as “stand in front of the sink and put your hands under the tap” or “put your dishes in the sink” is instrumental in their development.

Teaching prepositions will be greatly enhanced if you provide activities that require your child to move, manipulate objects, or draw pictures. It is easiest for children to act out, see the action of, and understand prepositions that relate to location or position.

The adaptability of teaching prepositions is infinite, with loads of games with just “in”, “on” and “under” for beginners and then focussing on more complex and differential prepositional phrases such as “in front of”/“opposite” and “in the corner”/“on the corner” for advanced learners.

Because understanding a preposition means understanding the position of one thing in relation to another, it is particularly helpful to teach these words by moving around. As you play with your child, model positions while pairing with the appropriate language and invite your child to move their own body into different relative positions.

Click the titles below to follow the circle-time links!

Up Above & Down Below - Story

Anti-Gravity Experiment

The Green Grass Grows All Around - Felt Story Song

Introduce the topic with a sand sensory tray!

Materials needed: Baking pan or shallow tray, sand, small animal toys, shells/rocks/leaves/small twigs.

Activity instructions:

1. Add sand, sea creatures and other materials to your sensory bin.
2. Invite your child to explore prepositions using the toy animals.
3. As **younger children** move the animals around the sensory bin, adults can use prepositional language to describe their actions. **Older children** can play a game trying to pair the position with given instructions.



Questions and conversation during this activity:

- “The blue fish is hiding **under** the shell, do you think the orange fish **beside** the rock can see him?”
- “Wow, look how your Blue fish swims on top of the water!”
- “Let’s use the shells to make an obstacle course for the fish! They can swim over, around, through or between, alongside and so on!”

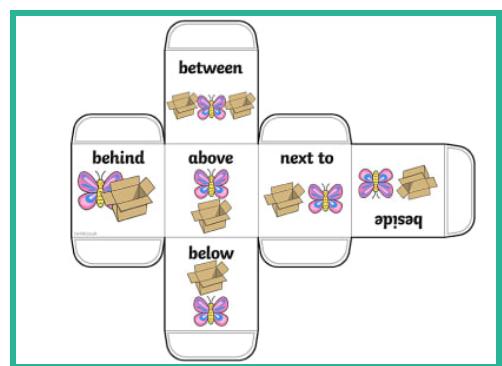
Keep in mind your child’s skill level and make sure to set them up for success while challenging their abilities. Younger children can begin with prepositions such as “in, out, on top, under, etc. and as your child grows, you can start to introduce more complex prepositions such as near and far.

Dice Game (Literacy)

Materials needed: Cube (box or large die), preposition cards ([click here to print cards by totschooling](#), or make your own), tape, an empty box, one of your child’s favourite toys.

Activity instructions:

1. Prepare your die with prepositional pictures and words by taping the [preposition cards](#) onto each side of your die.
2. Take turns rolling the die with your child.
3. After each roll, use your child’s toy and the empty box to copy the preposition showing on the top of the die. For example, if the die shows ‘in’, place the toy **in** the box.



Adapt this activity to enhance gross motor skills by using your body and a chair or large box. For example, sit on the chair, stand behind the chair, stand beside the chair, etc.



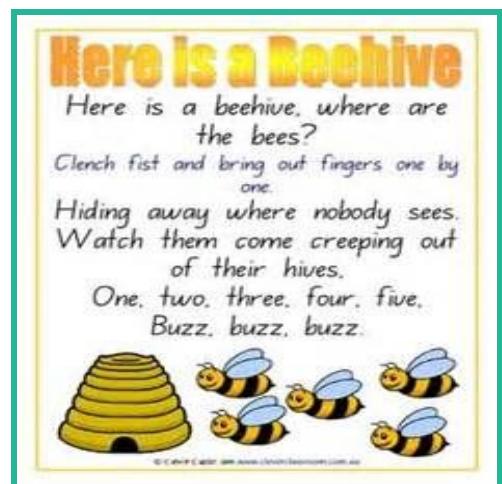
Looking for a calmer activity? Print 2 copies of the cards and play a matching or memory game!

Fingerplay (Language):

Materials needed: None. Read the Lyrics ahead of time to familiarize yourself with the simple chant.

Activity instructions:

1. Clench your fist, tucking all fingers inside.
2. Chant "Here is a beehive, but where are all of the bees?"
3. As you bring out your fingers one by one, continue chanting "Hiding away where nobody sees. Watch them come creeping out of their hive. One, two, three, four, five! Buzzzzzz buzzzzzz buzz buzz buzz."
4. Repeat again and again, encouraging your child to follow along with their fingers as you recite the chant.



Car Maze Garage (Math)

Materials needed: Cardboard boxes, tape, utility knife or scissors.

Activity instructions:

1. Use your boxes, tape and utility knife/scissors to build a multi-leveled garage (or perhaps you already have a toy garage at home that you could use).

It doesn't have to be fancy, but try and add a ramp, some directional arrows for the cars to follow ($\nwarrow \nearrow \nearrow \swarrow \uparrow \rightarrow$), and some parking spaces.

2. Invite your child to drive their toy cars around the garage.
3. As your child drives their cars around, use prepositional language to describe their actions. For example, "Now the red car is driving **up** to the **top** of the garage to park in the **nearest** parking space."



Land, Sea and Air Stickers (Fine Motor)

Materials needed: Transportation stickers, paper, markers.

Activity instructions:

1. With your child, draw a scene on your paper using your markers. Sky at the top, land in the middle and water at the bottom.
2. Use prepositional language as you draw and discuss your picture.
3. Invite your child to add stickers to the paper in the corresponding positions. For example, boats float on the water, submarines sink under the water, airplanes fly high in the air or sky and trains and cars drive on the land.



If you aren't up for the task of drawing, quickly sketch a tree with a ladder (as shown in the photo), and invite your child to manipulate their toys in the picture. Up the ladder, in the tree, on the ground, on top of the tree, beside the tree, etc.



Liquid Level Bottle (Science)

Materials needed: Empty water bottle or jar, different liquids (for example, honey, syrup, milk, water, dish soap, oil, alcohol, etc.).

Activity instructions:

1. With your child, pour the different liquids into the bottle or jar.
2. Experiment with your child, make predictions of what might happen and explore the results.
3. Notice and discuss the different levels. Which liquid is on the top, and which is on the bottom?
4. Place this bottle in the window, and when the sun shines through the different liquids it will make the levels extremely clear.



Younger children can begin with 3-4 levels.

Older children can extend the activity by adding a few simple household items (for example, a ping pong ball, a bottle cap, beads, popcorn kernels, a bolt, etc.). “Do you think they will sink to the bottom or float in the middle?”, “It is floating on top of the milk and under the soap!”.



Sand and Water Oceanside Bin (Sensory)

Materials needed: Sand, water, blue food colouring is optional, sea creatures, shells.

Activity instructions:

1. Make a wall across the center of your sensory bin using your shells.
2. Fill one side of the sensory bin with sand.
3. Add water (and food colouring if desired) into the other half of the bin.
4. Invite your child to explore the sensory experience as they explore preposition language.



Comment on the actions your child is taking using prepositional language. “Your shark is swimming down deep to the bottom of the ocean!”, “Your crab is crawling on top of the sand and will bury himself into a hole under the sand for a quick nap.”.

Making Our Own Maps (Creative)

Materials needed: Coloured paper, markers (or crayons, or pencils), scissors, glue, a favourite toy.

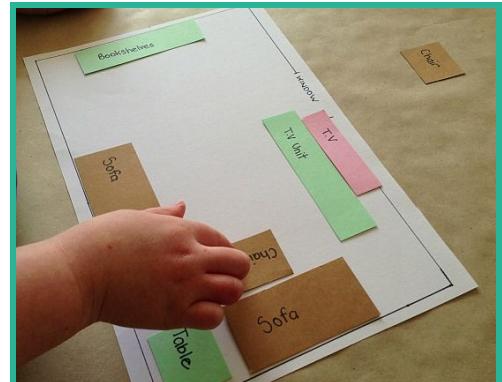
Activity instructions:

1. Invite your child to help you put their favourite toy in a secret spot in the room.

"Daddy/mommy will be looking for your toy! We will have to make a map so they can find it!"

2. Use your scissors to cut rectangles, squares and other shapes to resemble the furniture or objects in the room (see the photo for an example →).
3. Label each shape with the name of the item it will represent. For example, couch, chair, table, lamp, book shelf, etc.

For **younger children**, use your markers to draw a simple picture of the item on each rectangle. If you aren't into drawing, cut the pictures from an old magazine.



4. Glue the paper shapes onto a separate piece of paper to make a map of the room. Make sure to include a special piece to represent your child's favourite toy to mark the secret spot.

Building Castles (Building):

Materials needed: Blocks

Activity instructions:

1. Invite your child to help you build a castle!
2. "If we wanted to make it really tall, where would we start?" Ask open ended questions and allow your child to lead the process as you give suggestions using prepositional language. For example, "perhaps we should put some blocks beside/behind/in front of the others".

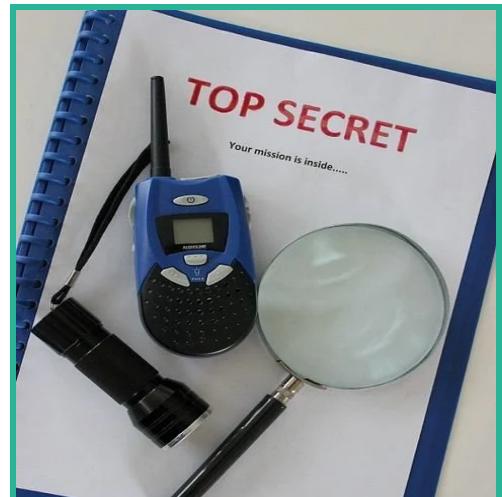


Younger children will begin by stacking a tower of blocks on top of one another, and **older children** will be able to extend and build more complex structures as shown in the photo.

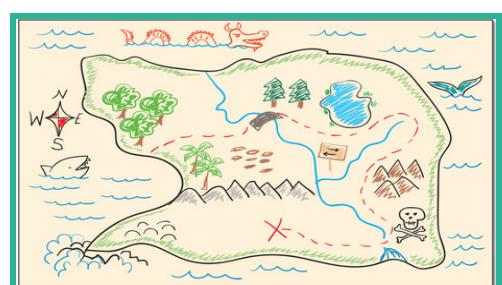
Detective (Pretend or Cooperative Play):

It's easier than it sounds to set up. Use a few pieces of paper and some common household items.

Start with the premise of your mystery: Something is missing or has been stolen. It could be a favorite toy, stuffed animal, or even a piece of healthy fruit your child can enjoy in the end as a reward for solving the case. If you want to throw a bad guy into the premise, by all means, do so. More storytelling is always good.

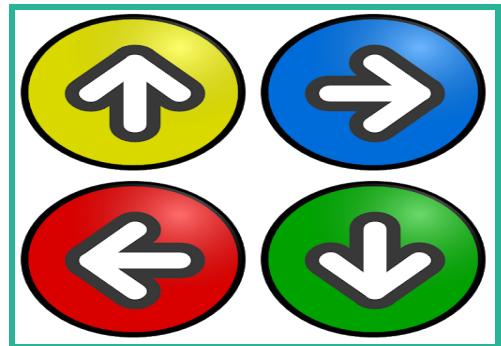


- Play a game in which you hide something special around the house, and then leave a chain of clues (with pictures and words) for your child to find and solve until they uncover the hidden prize.
- Use maps!
- Cut out directional arrows and encourage your child to make their own directional course.



- If the weather is nice you can expand the adventure outside or to a park with a little foresight. And not only does it stretch your child's brain, but also their bodies as they excitedly run around the house or yard.

Don't forget to include as much prepositional language as possible. For example, "Your bear is hiding **on** top of something that is **behind** the couch. In order to get there, we may need to climb under the chair!"



Balance Along The Tape Maze (Gross Motor - Movement)

Materials needed: Masking tape, marker.

Activity instructions:

1. Use your masking tape to make a maze along the floor. Consider turning corners, zig zagging, rounding curves, hopping over, etc.
2. Use your marker to draw directional arrows along your tape.
3. Invite your child to balance along the tape lines as they follow the directional arrows. For example, your tape may be placed up over a pillow, under a table, around a chair or through a doorway.



Take this activity outside! Use chalk to make a maze on the pavement or cement. Invite your child to balance or drive their bike/scooter/push toy through the maze made out of chalk.

Mission Impossible Maze (Gross Motor)

Materials needed: Masking tape, hallway.

Activity instructions:

1. Tape your masking tape to either side of the hallway, creating a tape hurdle.
2. Repeat step 1 along the hallway, placing the tape hurdles at different levels.
3. Invite your child to crawl under, climb over and through the different hurdles.



It is important to use masking tape, so that it will not damage your walls and will come off easily or break if your child steps on the hurdle.

Paper plate Marble Maze (Gross Motor - Coordination & Control)

Materials needed: Paper plate, paper, scissors, tape or glue, marble or ping pong ball.

Activity instructions:

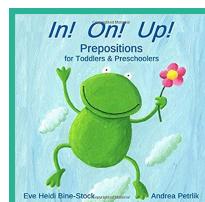
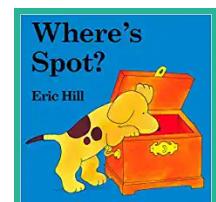
1. Cut strips from your paper using your scissors.
2. Tape or glue both ends of the paper strip onto the paper plate, leaving a loop in the center of the strip.
3. Invite your child to tilt and manipulate the plate to roll the ball through the loops.
4. Cheer on your child as they try to roll the ball through the loops, using prepositional language to comment on the ball's actions. For example, "Oh, that was so close, it rolled right beside the loop and around the plate again!"



Younger children can begin with 1-2 loops, adding more and more to continue to challenge their skills as they grow.

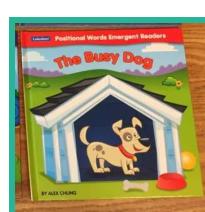
Book Recommendations: (Click the titles below to follow the Amazon links)

[Where's Spot? - by: Eric Hill](#)



[The Bouncing Ball - by: Deborah Kelly](#)

[In, On, Up! - by: Eve Heidi Bine-Stock](#)



Prepositional Words – Emergent Readers series of 6 hard covered books which all target different prepositional concepts.

We hope you have enjoyed these activities!

Please let us know if you have any comments or suggestions and feel free to share and tag us in your photos and stories!

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