

## Positional Language

### What is Positional Language?

Positional Language refers to the place where something or someone is.

### Why are position words important?

Teaching children positional language helps them to understand how letters are formed.

When describing how letters are formed, we may use letter patters which includes positional language to describe how to move the pencil.

#### EXAMPLE

In the 'Little Wandle' scheme, we would describe the formation of these letters using the following letter patters:

**around** the astronaut's helmet and **down** into space

**down** the tiger and **across** its neck



## Positional Language Games

### Everyday opportunities for Learning

Use everyday situations to reinforce the language of position words.

For example:

In the car: 'Put your seatbelt across your body',

Putting shopping away: 'Put the bread on the side'

Putting clothes away: 'Put the top in the drawer'

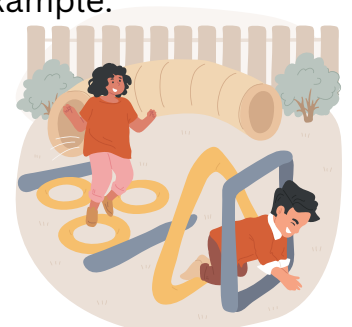
At the table: 'please pass the sauce across the table'



### Obstacle Course

Set up an obstacle courses in your house or garden (if the weather is dry) using every day objects. Take turns to be the teacher. The teacher calls out the instructions and the other person goes through the obstacle course. The teacher tried to use different position words to describe what the person needs to do, for example:

- Crawl under the table/bench
- Step on the step
- Jump off the step
- Lift up the hoop over your head
- Put the hoop down
- Try to use different objects to keep it fun.



## Positional Language Games

### In and On

Gather some objects from around the house that you know the children are familiar with. Ask each child in turn to put an object 'in' or 'on' the box. Once they've done it, ask them 'where X' and encourage them to answer using the position word (in or on). You could also carry out this activity with other concepts such as 'under', 'next to', 'behind', 'in front'.



### Alien Landing

You will need a puppet for this activity. You could make a puppet from a sock too. Introduce the child to puppet 'Ali the Alien'. Explain that Ali has come from out of space and needs help to learn new words.

Demonstrate and teach position words e.g. on, under, across by placing another toy or object in various positions.

Ask the child to explain to Ali where the toy/object is e.g. the ball is under the table. The teddy is lying across the sofa.



### Pass the Object Across: Relay!



Pass the object across your body the person next to you. Once it reaches the end of the line, pass it back across the other way. The first team to get it back wins! You can try this with a balloon/ball or object.

### Pass the Object Over and Under: Relay!



Pass the object across your body the person next to you. Once it reaches the end of the line, pass it back across the other way. The first team to get it back wins! You can try this with a balloon/ball or object.



Have a go with these activities at home with your child. You could include siblings too. **The more opportunities for learning the better.** You can repeat the same games if your child has their favourites.