

Helping Your Child with Positional Language

Key points

- Positional language means using words like 'behind', 'next to', and 'between' to describe where things are.
- Learning these words in Reception (the first year of primary school) helps children understand the world around them.
- This vocabulary is part of the Early Learning Goals, which are the milestones children are encouraged to reach by the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).
- Building these skills now helps your child when they move on to more formal maths topics in Year 1.
- Every child learns at their own pace, and the best way to practice is through playful, everyday conversation.

Things to try at home

- Play a simple game of hide-and-seek with a favourite toy and describe where it is hiding.
- While setting the table or tidying up, talk about where things go, such as putting the spoon 'beside' the plate.
- On a walk, give gentle directions like 'can you stand in front of the big tree?'
- Use a favourite teddy to make a game of 'above and below', placing the toy on top of a chair or underneath a table.

Find out more

- Your child's class teacher or the school's EYFS lead.
- The GOV.UK website for official guidance on the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework.