

Mapledown School



Working and Learning Together

Positions Play

In these strange times, I thought I would design simple learning activities to support parents/guardians with home schooling their child. Out in the general public is often difficult to find appropriate educational resources to meet the needs of some of our students. Hence, I have picked a theme and developed a series of learning activities which you could do with your child. These learning activities are meant to be practical and fun using items that are readily accessible at home, with supporting educational resources. I have given a brief explanation for each learning activity, supported with photographs where necessary. I have also attached the education resources to support the learning activities.

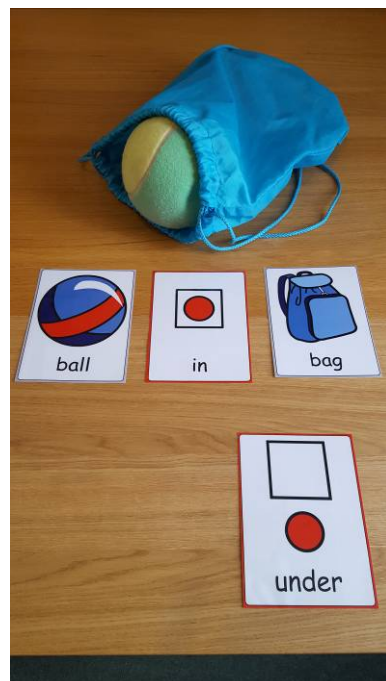
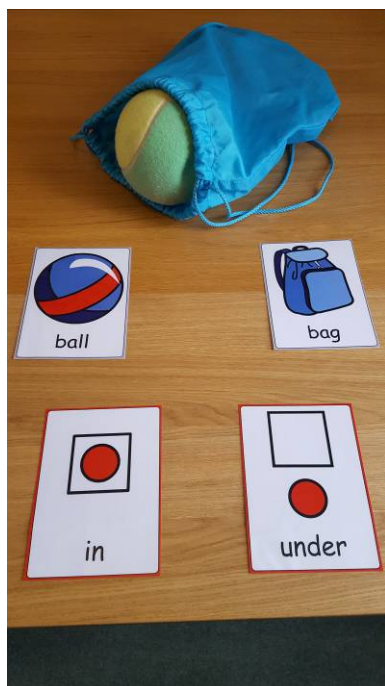
Activity 1 Positions using objects

The positions that we are focusing on are; on, in, under, next to.

I have used simple objects which you should be able to find around the home, eg. table, chair, tray, box, pen, ball, hat.

The symbols for this activity are attached. You can print them off and cut them up ready for the activity. For the children who are accessing text, you can type/write the words on document/page and substitute the words for the symbols.

Place the objects in whichever position you are exploring, with the symbols arranged underneath, see 'ball in bag example' photograph.



Mapledown School



Working and Learning Together

With your child, get them to put the ball in the bag to reinforce the 'in' concept. Also point to the symbol to support the concept.

Once the practical exploration element of the activity is finished, ask the child to choose the correct symbol to describe the position of the ball, and to complete the simple symbol sentence, see photograph.

Read the simple sentence with your child. This will support the child's literacy.

You can repeat this activity for the other positions, eg on, under, next to.

This learning activity can be repeated over several days.

Activity 2 'Foodie Positions.'

This is an adapted version of the activity above. The child can eat the food item as a reward when they get the example correct. Food is often a motivator for some of the children. I have included some fruit examples, in an attempt to maintain a healthy lifestyle in these strange times.

Place the food item in whichever position you are exploring, eg. grape in the bowl, blueberry on the plate, apple next to the cup.



If you are using larger food items, you can cut them into smaller pieces, eg. apple, orange segments, etc. Also another suggestion is to use vegetables, eg. carrot batons, cucumber wedges, celery sticks,

Mapledown School



Working and Learning Together

etc. If the child is motivated by dips, you could use a salsa, guacamole. Whatever items you have to hand at home in these times.

I have not included symbols for this activity, as the list is endless. If you would like some symbols to support the activity, please e-mail me on the address at the bottom. I will glad prepare and send the symbols to you!

Activity 3 'Favourite Toy Positions.'

Another way to help motivate your child, could be to use their favourite toy. You could place the toy in different positions, eg. Woody (Toy Story) sitting on chair, etc.

If you would like to e-mail me a photograph of your child's toy, I will create a symbol for you and reply to you with the newly formed symbol.

Activity 4 Positions Game

As the child becomes familiar with the various position concepts, you can develop a game. For example tell the child to 'hide under the table', 'sit on the chair,' etc. If your child has other siblings, they can also join in, and the quickest person to assume the position wins the point. The first person to 5 points wins the game, and give a prize. Prizes help motivate!

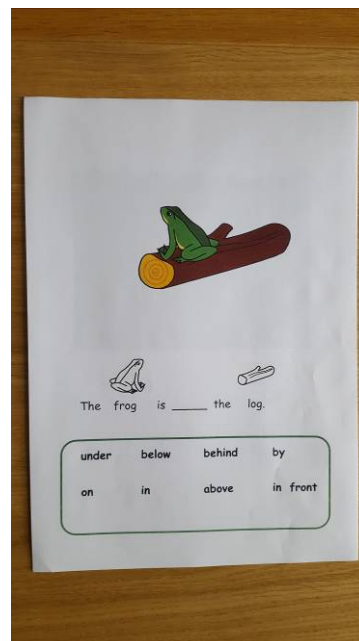
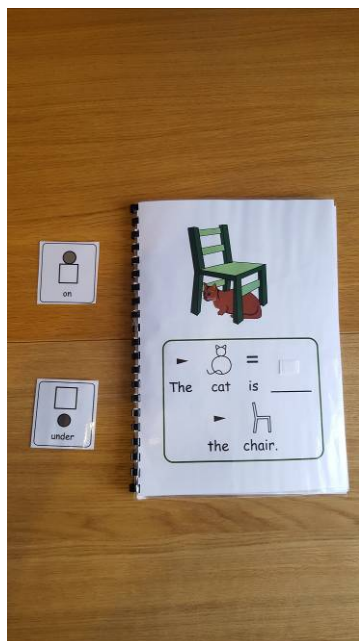
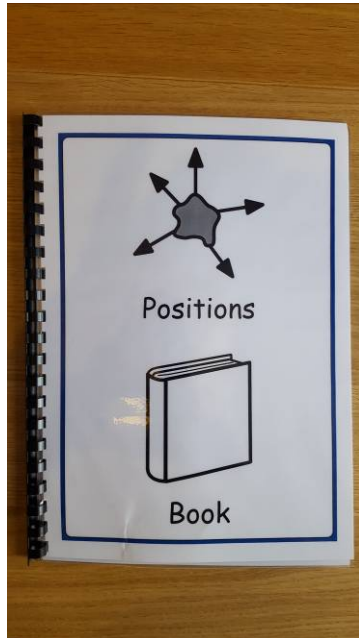
Activity 5 Positions Activity Books

These are a series of 3 different books, pitched at different ability levels. You can print off the pages, cut up the symbols, and place the symbols alongside question page. Then you can complete the activity book together with your child. Again, these books can be repeated several times with your child.

Mapledown School



Working and Learning Together



Positions Book A, is a simple matching book. Place 2 symbols alongside the page. Describe the picture, and use the symbol to reinforce the concept. Ask the child to match the symbol to the picture. As the child becomes more secure in their knowledge and understanding of the concept, add the third symbol to choose from.

Positions Book B, is an identifying book. Similar to above, see photograph, 'Cat under chair' Point to the two symbols and read the simple symbol sentence with the child. Ask the child to choose the correct symbol to complete the sentence. Also similar to above, as the child becomes more secure in their knowledge and understanding of the concept, add the third symbol to choose from. If the child is really super at the activity, you can always lay out the 4 symbols for the book in a symbol pool to

Mapledown School



Working and Learning Together

choose from. If the child is consistently correctly completing the sentence, they are obviously very secure in the concept. You could extend the position concept to 'above', 'behind', etc.

Positions Book C, is a writing Book. This is for the child who is also able to write. Read the sentences and key words with the child. Ask the child to choose the word that best describes the picture. Then the child writes the correct word to complete the sentence.

I hope that these activities are useful. If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me. All the best with your home schooling!

Keep well, and stay safe.

Kindest regards,

Donal O Keeffe.
Class Teacher,
Mapledown School.

donal@mapledown.barnet.sch.uk