

A VIEW FROM THE SKY

USING GOOGLE MAPS TO TARGET SPATIAL CONCEPTS

THINK ABOUT . . .

The term, generalization, is used when an individual applies something learned in a specific situation (such as therapy) to other similar situations. It is also referred to as “carryover.” Progress should not just be seen in the therapy setting. It should also be seen in other environments such as at home, at school, the park, etc. One of the best ways to promote effective generalization is to create a learning environment in which a child can make personal connections. When a child makes a personal connection to a new idea or concept, their neural pathways are physically being strengthened. This activity is designed to help a child look at familiar locations in their environment in a fun, new engaging way, targeting spatial concepts along the way.



ACTIVITY

- 1- Additional “warm up” idea: read or pause and click through the book, ABC: The Alphabet from the Sky, to help the child see a view from the sky that they might not be used to seeing.
- 2- After locating on google maps familiar places that the child goes to/recognizes, allow the child to interact and move the image around. (You should be able to see buildings from a front and ariel view) If they have never seen google maps before, seeing their house on a computer screen could be a very new, entertaining, and fun experience for them.
- 3- As they interact, you can slowly begin to target spatial concepts and imbed other vocabulary. For children who have a better understanding of prepositions, you can ask more open-ended questions such as, “where is the trampoline?” encouraging the use of preposition descriptors. If they are having more difficulty with prepositions, it is suggested to start small and specifically target only 1-2 terms. An example of how this can be done is by asking a closed question such as, “Is the trampoline behind or on the house?” Then recasting, “Yes, the trampoline is **BEHIND** the house” (acoustic highlighting)
- 4- This continues throughout all your different chosen locations to promote generalization and maintain interest and attention. You can also have the child give you instructions, taking turns back and forth.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Google Maps Online
- YouTube- ABC: The Alphabet From the Sky
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYsfoU432ME>

PREPARATION:

- 1- On google maps, find familiar locations your child would recognize (the park, their house, friend/relative’s house, their school, stores, etc.)
- 2- Decide the language targets for your child. What spatial concepts will you use (see below)

VOCABULARY:

- Spatial concepts including but not limited to: in, on, next to, under, between, in front of, behind
- Neighborhood/Neighbor
- Map
- Grocery Store/Other community locations

HELPFUL TIPS:

- Don't forget: the types of questions we ask children are important! Receptive language often develops faster than expressive language. It is important to remember the difference between receptive and expressive language in these types of activities. Think of how a question is worded. "Where is the trampoline?" more heavily targets expressive language as they have to first understand what you are asking, then verbally produce a response in relation to many of the items around the trampoline. "Put the pencil behind you," specifically targets receptive language as that is a following directions task. If your child is having difficulty, think about the types of questions you are asking them and how they can be re-worded to give a little extra support. (e.g., a binary choice or closed question is a lot easier to answer than an open-ended question).

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