

Animals Everywhere



Using spatial concepts in a fun and easy way.

THINK ABOUT...

"IN" "ON" "UNDER" "ABOVE" "BELOW" "THROUGH" "OVER" . . . We use prepositions all the time! Play is a great way to integrate spatial concepts into your daily routine in a fun and natural way. This activity will expose your child to a variety of prepositions/spatial concepts and encourage imagination. As you play together, incorporating listening and spoken language strategies, your child will be learning without even knowing it.



ACTIVITY

- 1- Create a simple animal cave by cutting a small semi-circle from a paper bowl. Turn the bowl upside-down.
- 2- After you have created your animal cave, you are ready to begin! Take turns giving silly directions on where to place the animals.
- 3- When giving your child a direction, begin with prepositions that they already know (e.g. in, on) to boost his or her confidence and keep them engaged. Then begin giving more advanced directions. For example: "Put the elephant above the cave!" If a concept is too difficult, first show your child what you mean, and then repeat the same direction again so they can do it on their own.
- 4- Directions can be made more difficult as your child develops. For example, "Put the tiger in the cave and the elephant above the cave". Remember to use auditory strategies, such as auditory-first and acoustic highlighting.
- 5- Allow your child to give you directions as well.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Scissors
- Paper bowl
- Small animal toys

PREPARATION

- 1- Turn the paper bowl upside down, and cut a semi-circle in the bowl to create the "cave's" doorway. You can also paint or decorate the bowl if you choose.
- 2- Gather small animal toys and figurines.

VOCABULARY:

- Above
- Below
- In
- On
- Beside
- By
- Behind
- Under
- Around
- Through
- Between

HELPFUL TIPS

- Be sure to continue using a variety of spatial concepts in your daily routines, so your child becomes familiar with them and will be ready for kindergarten. "The milk is in the fridge, your shoes are behind the chair, the soap is above the sink etc."
- Use acoustic highlighting to make perception easier for your child.
- You can paint or decorate the bowl to help expand language opportunities with your child.

Special thanks to graduate students in the Listening and Spoken Language Deaf Education graduate training program at Utah State University. These pages can be reproduced for educational purposes.