**Understanding four information carrying words**

For more information about what information carrying words are, please see the handout ‘Introduction to information carrying words’ on our website.

These are ideas to develop understanding of four information carrying words in a sentence. For example, if you have a big banana, little banana, big apple, little apple, red plate, blue plate, red book, blue book, and you ask a child to “Put the big banana on the blue plate”, the child has to make 4 choices:

1. big or little
2. banana or apple
3. red or blue
4. plate or book

**Activity Ideas**

1. **Washing and cleaning**
2. ****You will need a big and little doll (or action figure), a big and little teddy and a sponge. You can play washing the big or little teddy or doll. Ask the child to:  
   Wash big dolly’s face and foot  
   Wash little teddy’s hand and leg  
     
   etc.
3. You will need a big and little dog, a big and little teddy, a hairbrush, a toothbrush, a sponge, and a shampoo bottle. Ask the child to:  
     
   Wash big teddy’s feet  
   Brush little dog’s teeth  
   Brush big dog’s ears  
   Wash little teddy’s face  
   etc.
4. **Home corner**
5. A picture containing indoor, plate, cup, tableware

   Description automatically generatedPut a range of crockery and cutlery on the table. Ask the child to:  
   Put a spoon beside the blue cup  
   Put a knife under mummy’s plate  
   etc.  
     
   You could also do this with play characters, e.g., Buzz, Woody etc.
6. You will need a big and little dolly (or action figure), big and little teddy, big cup, little cup, big plate, little plate, big spoon, and little spoon. Ask the child to:   
   Give the big spoon to big dolly  
   Give the little cup to big teddy  
   etc.
7. **Diagram

   Description automatically generatedHiding games**
8. You will need a box, a bag, a big ball, a little ball, a big brick, and a little brick. Ask the child to:  
   Put the big ball under the box  
   Put the little brick in the bag  
   etc.
9. You will need big and little toys (e.g. car, doll, ball, brick, book) and 2 items of furniture (e.g. bed, chair, table). Ask the child to:  
   Put the big book under the table  
   Put the little ball behind the chair  
   etc.
10. You will need some toys, e.g., teddy, ball, car, brick. Play a game of Hide and Seek with the child and one other person. Whisper to the child where to put the toy, for example,

Put the brick under the big chair  
Put the ball on the bin in the kitchen  
etc.

1. Shape

   Description automatically generated with low confidence**Action Games**
2. You will need: 2 character toys (e.g., dolly, teddy, action figure) and 2 items of furniture (e.g., bed, chair, table). You can pretend to make the dolls do different actions, e.g. sleep, sit, stand, walk, dance etc on the furniture. Ask the child to:  
   Make dolly dance under the chair  
   Make teddy jump on the table  
   etc.
3. Using coloured bean bags and balls and some hoops and cushions, ask the child to:  
   kick the red bean bag to the hoop  
   throw the blue ball to the cushion  
   etc.
4. **Transport**
5. Shape

   Description automatically generatedYou will need big and little cars of at least 2 colours, big and little lorries of the same colours as the cars, and 2 boxes/pictures to represent a garage and a car park. Ask the child to:  
   Put the big red lorry in the garage  
   Put the little yellow car in the car park  
   etc.
6. You will need big and little cars of at least 2 colours, big and little lorries of the same colours as the cars, a box which represents a garage, and a sponge / cloth. Ask the child to:  
     
   Put petrol in the little blue car  
   Wash the big green lorry  
   etc.
7. You will need big and little dolls or action figures, big and little teddies, a bus and a tractor / any 2 vehicles. Ask the child to:  
   Make big teddy drive the bus  
   Make little dolly push the tractor  
   Make big dolly jump on the car  
   etc.

**Top tips:**

* Play with the objects first. You may need to demonstrate to the child what sort of things you want them to do, e.g., “look, I’m making big teddy drive the bus” etc.
* Make sure you do not give the child extra clues, for instance do not point or look at the named object.
* Only help the child if they are really stuck!
* The child may look towards the picture / object but not reach for it, accept this as their response and offer them the chosen item.
* Always use items that your child knows the name of.
* Praise the child and make it fun!