



BASIC CONCEPTS @ HOME



What are Basic Concepts?

Basic concepts are important language foundations for being a good communicator. They help children understand and follow instructions, how things relate to each other and how to talk about the world around them. They are important for school success.

Basic concepts can be divided into 5 areas:

- **Descriptions** (i.e. colors, big/little, same/different)
- **Locations** (such as up/down, over/under, in/out, between, etc.)
- **Time concepts** such as before/after, young/old
- **Number concepts** (i.e. many, some, few, numbers)
- **Emotional concepts** such as happy, sad, mad, excited, disappointed

Some concepts to learn between the ages of 2 ½ and 5 years old:

- In/Out • Big/Little • Up/Down • Happy/Sad • On/Off • Top/Bottom • First/Last • Open/Closed • Loud/Soft (Noisy/Quiet) • Hot/Cold • Fast/Slow • Before/After • Hard/Soft • New/Old • Empty/Full • Behind/In Front • Outside/Inside • Asleep/Awake • Clean/Dirty • Wet/Dry • Heavy/Light • Day/Night



Daily Practice Ideas

Day 1: Make breakfast together & talk about concepts like: empty/full, cold/hot, before/after

Day 2: Play with playdough together and talk about concepts like: big/little, long/short, hard/soft, in/out

Day 3: Play a matching/memory game and talk about concepts like: same/different, first/last, top/bottom

Day 4: Go on a nature walk outside and talk about concepts like: noisy/quiet, wet/dry, fast/slow, outside/inside, up/down, on/off

Day 5: While bathing your child, talk about concepts like: wet/dry, in/out, open/closed, clean/dirty, hot/cold, on/off

See back of page for additional information and resources!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Check out these links for more resources and activity ideas

- There are lots of educational songs on YouTube to help your child learn concepts through music and picture supports. Check out this one from [The Learning Station](#)
- Lots of children's books highlight early concepts. For example, "Hop on Pop" by Dr. Seuss, "Opposites" by Sandra Boynton, "Not a Box" by Antoinette Portis. You can also watch books on video, like this version of ["Opposites"](#) by Sandra Boynton.
- Check out this [article from Hanen](#) on water play with preschoolers – it includes some great tips on how to get more language out of your child!
- This [handout from Super Duper](#) includes some fun ideas on how to incorporate basic concepts at home, including fun and engaging games like "I Spy"

Outdoor Adventures



Outside is a great place to engage your little learner in discovering basic concepts. Check out this adventure hunt that involves lots of different concepts like:

- Rough/smooth
- Same/different
- Flat
- Fuzzy
- Pretty

You can make your own adventure hunt to help your child learn any concepts you'd like. Just use a pencil and paper to make a list!

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE HUNT

- { } Something colorful.
- { } A pinecone.
- { } An acorn.
- { } Something smooth.
- { } Something rough.
- { } Two kinds of leaves.
- { } Two kinds of sticks.
- { } Something bumpy.
- { } A flat rock.
- { } Something fuzzy.
- { } Something pretty.
- { } A chewed leaf.
- { } A flower or petal.
- { } A piece of litter.
- { } Something you think is a treasure.

