



Spatial Sense



With **spatial sense**, children can describe the relationships between objects and places. Spatial words can describe where objects are in position, or how things move.

Learning Goals	A Child Might...
Describe features of objects in space (e.g., tall, large, long).	• Use general terms like "big" or "small" to describe objects. As they grow, their descriptions become more precise, using "tall" or "long." • Use and understand basic spatial terms to describe object features, such as "tall," "large," "long," "short," "wide," or "narrow."
Identify where objects are in relation to one another (e.g., between, next to, behind).	• Look for familiar objects in their typical locations, such as their cup in the kitchen. • Use and understand simple spatial terms like "in," "on," "under," "up," and "down" to describe location and direction. For example, "My bear is under the table." • Use spatial words such as "beside" and "between" to describe where objects are, even if they've moved, such as "My blocks were beside the table."
Describe how objects move (e.g., across, over, backward).	Use and understand basic spatial terms like "up," "down," "across," "over," and "backward" to describe movement, such as "The wheels on the bus go up and down."

Math Tips

Math is everywhere—at home, the park, and the grocery store! **Here are a few ideas to practice using spatial sense words:**

- **Use spatial words while cleaning up toys.**
"The blocks go next to your stuffed animals."
"Please put the books on the bookshelf."
- **Turn making the bed into a game!** "Does the blanket go over or under the sheets?"
- **Use spatial sense words while making art.**
Wonder together about what you could draw next to each other on the page or how tall or short things should be.

Math Talk

Incorporating math talk with children helps to deepen their understanding of early math concepts. **Here are some conversation starters to help you practice:**

Please hand me the laundry basket **behind** the door.

I see a grey sock **under** the pile of shorts. Can you find it?

Resources



Sing and dance to the Spatial Sense Song on our Family Math YouTube channel @FamilyMathKids
qrco.de/mathdance



Practice spatial reasoning by moving pieces around to recreate a fun, kid-friendly picture in the **digital game "Build a Picture."**
qrco.de/buildapicture

