

Indicator #21
Positional Words

Student shows understanding of the relative position of objects.

Research

Children use spatial organization to be able to use positional words such as above, below, in front of, behind, next to, between, on, over, under, and inside to manipulate and explore different spatial properties. Learning positional words is important to a child's learning as they begin to read and write and learn about spatial relationships. These positional words can be taught and used in a variety of different subjects throughout a student's academic career.

Dauksas, L., & White, J. (n.d.). Discovering Shapes and Space in Preschool | National Association for the Education of Young Children | NAEYC TYC | Teaching Young Children Magazine. Retrieved June 07, 2016, from http://www.naeyc.org/tyc/article/shapes_space

Geometric Identification

2.3.PK.A.1

Identify and describe positional words.

The learner will:

- Use appropriate vocabulary to describe the position of objects (position or order)
- Demonstrate knowledge of positional words using cubes.

The learner may also:

- Describe location objects in the environment using positional words.
- Describe the relative positions of objects using terms such as above, below, beside, in front of, behind, and next to

Effective Practices:

- Explicitly use position words
- Read books that use positional words.
- Model the vocabulary
- Provide cubes to create objects using positional words.

ACTIVITIES

Activity:

Small group using "Sock Monkey" (stuffed animal or bean bag).

First, the teacher will place the stuffed animal in different positions and ask students to identify where it is use positional words such as above, below, beside, etc. Next, the teacher will use positional words and have students place the stuffed animal accordingly (e.g., on desk, under desk, above head).

Evidence Collection Strategies:

- The teacher will observe and document students' ability to identify and describe positional words.

Home School Connection:

- Families can do the same activity at home with stuffed animals or action figures.

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Positional-Words-Book-FREEBIE-1441840>

Activity:

In a small group, students will be directed to create a tower using connective cubes. The teacher directs the student where

to place each colored cube to create their tower.

As an extension, the students will create their own tower and they will tell the teacher using positional vocabulary where each colored cube in their tower is located.

Evidence Collection Strategies:

- The teacher will observe and document the correct use of vocabulary explaining the position of the cubes in the tower.

Home School Connection:

- Encourage families to have their children use positional words at home.
- Encourage families to read books using positional words to their children.

Activity:

Materials

Classroom furniture or playground equipment.

Arrange an obstacle course in the classroom and model using positional words (e.g. “I am going under the table, jumping over the block, and walking beside the chair.”) As the students are going through the obstacle course, verbalize directions using positional words.

Activity Prompts:

If a child hesitates, use picture prompts or cue cards to complete the activity.

Extension Activity:

Do the obstacle course with a partner and have partners verbalize the directions using positional words. Have them create their own obstacle course.

Evidence Collection Strategies:

- Observe and document students’ ability to follow positional word directions.

Home-School Connection:

Encourage families to engage their child in practicing positional words at home:

Traveling:

Using positional words to describe where they are in relationship to landmarks.

Outside:

Using positional words to play on playground outside.