



PLACES EVERYBODY!!

PLACES EVERYBODY! Talk about all the places you visit such as the beach, grandma's house and the drive thru! Talk about the rooms in your house. Naming the places around you, helps build vocabulary. It also creates opportunities to teach and practice **where** questions and **prepositions**, i.e., "Where do you sleep?" "In my bedroom", "in my bed". "Where is your toy?" "Under the box.", "on shelf". Other examples; "Where do lions live?" "Where do you find orange juice?" "Where is your raincoat?"

Many of the children will respond to where questions by pointing or saying "right there." While true, not exactly the expressive vocabulary we are targeting! In place of pointing and nonspecific vocabulary, prompt/model the use of prepositions such as **in, on, under, by, next to, and in back.** These skills are best practiced at home with objects. Have a bag full of toys and give your child them one at a time. Then ask your child to put it somewhere in the room, i.e., put the truck on the table, put it by the window, etc. Then have him tell you where it is. By doing both, you are working on comprehension and expression. You may need to actually walk your child through this to complete the task. You can also take objects that belong in certain rooms and ask them where they belong, i.e., a spoon, pillow, TV remote, toilet paper. Hand your child an item and ask which room it goes. Give examples by verbal and physical demonstration to facilitate targeted language skills. Use silly non-examples such as; does it go in the pool? the kitchen? Practice, practice, practice! Repetition is the key! Once those spatial terms are mastered, introduce **in front, above, between.**

On the go: And of course, go on quickie field trips to the fire station, police station, strawberry fields and/or Santa Ana Zoo. Make your next drive thru or restaurant trips a speech and language event. Talk about the stuff on the table and the people that work there.

Your participation in creating structured home activities is very valuable and helps stimulate your child's communication and vocabulary development. Yay you!

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