

Children's Speech and Language Service

Language Concepts

What are Concepts?

Basic concepts are words that all children need to understand in order to help them access everyday activities in various environments - at home, at school, at the park, or in social situations.

Basic language concepts are also critical to help and support further learning, for example, a child needs to understand **big / little** before they can understand **large, wide, long**.

Examples of Concepts

Basic colours - red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, pink

Position - on, off, in, out, under, in front, behind, top, bottom, up, down, inside, outside, high, low

Directions - through, around, open, close

Quantities - one, one more, less, more, most, few, many, some

Sequences - first, next, after that, and finally, before, after,

Shapes - circle, triangle, square, rectangle, diamond, oval, round

Size - small, large, big, little, huge, tiny

Feelings - happy, sad, mad, angry, silly, surprised

Textures - bumpy, rough, smooth, soft, prickly, hard

Time - morning, afternoon, evening, late, early, today, tomorrow, week, month, year, day

Descriptions - loud, soft, hot, cold, fast, slow, new, old, empty, full, wet, dry

Teaching Concepts

Talk with your child about everything you see, hear, touch and do!

- Getting dressed comment on the colour of everybody's clothes, if they have patterns, pictures, stripes or spots, which are big and which are little.
- When doing the washing, talk about clean and dirty clothes, wet and dry clothes, tell them when you are opening and shutting the door, putting clothes in or taking them out.
- When putting the shopping away or at tidy up time, talk about concepts such as in, on, under.

- At the shops, pick up the apple in the fruit section or have your child put it in the bag. Direct their attention to what it looks like. "Look, this apple is red and round. It looks like a circle. Feel it. It feels so smooth!"
- While driving, talk about what you see and hear! "Wow, did you hear that motorbike? It was loud!" Look at that Lorry, It is big!"
- Talk about the way things look and feel when you are going for a walk.

Remember, Basic Concepts are every-day words that are critical to your child's speech and language development and learning! They are words that you can teach through modelling, talking, reading, playing games and even singing. Start by incorporating a few of these words into your everyday language and use them often!