



HELLO PARENTS,

Spatial awareness includes knowing about shapes, space, positions, directions and movement. Spatial awareness and spatial relations allow children to locate objects and navigate successfully in their environments. The key to promoting spatial awareness in children is to allow them to explore their surroundings. As children become more mobile, they are able to crawl and later walk to objects and gain for themselves an understanding of how many steps it takes them to reach a given object or a given location. When children are able to move themselves, they will also come to understand how their location to objects changes as they move. This newsletter provides educational activities based on games to help your children learn about spatial awareness.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 -18 MONTHS)

PARACHUTE

MATERIALS:

- Blanket
- Soft toys and balls

DIRECTIONS:

- Hold the blanket from the four sides.
- Put some soft toys or balls on the blanket.
- Move the blanket up and down until the toys that are on the blanket fall off.
- Ask your child "Where did the toys go?" Wait until your child reacts to your question.
- Pick up the toys and hide them under the blanket then ask your child "Where did the toys go?" Wait until your child reacts to your question then show them the toys again.
- This activity will teach your child that, even if you can not see the toys it does not mean that they are not there.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

HOKEY POKEY

MATERIALS:

- [Click here](#) to listen to the song
- Open space

DIRECTIONS:

- Put the song on, sing, and do the movements of the song together.
- Leave some space between you and your child and do the movements of the song again.
- Move closer to each other and do the movement of the song again.
- Doing the movements of the song far away from each other and then closer to each other will help your child have a basic understanding of spatial awareness.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

OVER, UNDER, IN AND OUT

MATERIALS:

- Objects around the house

DIRECTIONS:

- Use your home to demonstrate various spatial concepts to your child.
- Ask your child to find three items that are under, on and inside of something.
- Use phrases that will help your child visualize a concept. Emphasize walking in and out of different rooms and areas.
- Point out lights and ceilings that are over your head and the carpet or flooring that is under your feet.
- Take turns with your child to point or find items that are under, on and inside of something.

[Click here](#) to read "Follow That Map!" by Scot Ritchie

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

TWISTER

MATERIALS:

- [Click here](#) for twister spinning wheel
- Big white paper
- Red, yellow, green, and blue markers

DIRECTIONS:

- Put the big paper on the floor and draw red, yellow, green, and blue circles one next to the other until the end of the paper.
- Remove your shoes, spin and read aloud the limb and colour the arrow is pointing to. For example, "Right Hand – Red".
- You must then move to follow the direction. Once limbs have been placed on the circle, they cannot be moved or lifted without the direction of each spin.
- Whenever you fall, or an elbow or knee touches the big paper, the game is over.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

EXPLORING MAPS

MATERIALS:

- Google maps
- Paper
- Pen
- Colouring pencils

DIRECTIONS:

- Open google maps and look at the map of Windsor.
- Look for the street you live on, your house, and your favourite places.
- After finding them, bring some paper, pen, and colouring pencils and draw the Windsor map.
- Pinpoint your street, house, and all your favourite places on the map you draw.

[Click here](#) for more activities.



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

A TIP FOR TODAY

- To help teach the concept of spatial awareness to your child, use positional vocabulary during puzzle and block play. For example: above, below, in front of, next to, edge, corner, face and side.
- **Discuss locations**
For example, leaving a toy on the bed and talking about where the toy is, where the bed is, where the bedroom is, etc.
- **Use comparative terms**
For example, mentioning which objects are closer and which objects are farther from your child's current location.
- **Talk about relationships**
For example, showing a child that a book is under a chair or that a notebook is on top of the shelf.
- **Measure distances**
For example, making a game out of how many steps it takes to get from point A to point B.
- **Give directions**
For example, ask your child to turn left at a tree or open the door on the right. For younger children you can ask to raise their left arm or wiggle their right foot.