

WHAT'S UNDER THE BLANKET?

"Under" is one of the first positional words children learn. It's part of a group of early prepositions that help children:

- Understand where things are in relation to themselves or other objects.
- Follow instructions in everyday routines (e.g. "Look under the table," "Put your shoes under the coat rack")
- Build thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Develop language they'll need for describing, and answering questions.

Learning early prepositional concepts like "under", "in", and "on" helps children make sense of the world around them and gives them the language to talk about it.



EQUIPMENT

You will need:

- A small blanket, scarf, or towel
- A few small toys (e.g., teddy, car, doll, animal figures)

OTHER WAYS TO PLAY

There are lots of ways to build the word 'under' into everyday play and interactions. You can:

.Play Toy Hide and Seek

- Hide toys under furniture (e.g. table, chair, cushion). Say: "Can you find the car? Look under the table!" Once found, model the language: "You found it! It was under the table!"

Obstacle Course

- Create a simple indoor or outdoor course. Include instructions like: "Crawl under the chair". This helps your child physically experience what "under" means.

Story Time

- During books, point to pictures and ask: "What's under the bed?" Lift the-flap books are great for this.

HOW TO PLAY

Hide the Toy

- Place one of the toys under the blanket while your child watches (or without them seeing for a surprise).

Ask:

- "Where's the teddy?", "Let's look under the blanket!"

Make It Fun and Repetitive

- Pull the blanket off together and say: "There he is! Teddy was hiding under the blanket!" Repeat with other toys, hiding them under different things – a chair, table, or cushion,

Take Turns

- Let your child hide a toy and say where it is: "The car is under the table"
- If your child doesn't use the word "under," you can gently model it: E.g. "Yes! The car is under the chair!"

As with other new concept words, try not to use more than one at a time unless you know that they understand one of them fully.