

# WHO'S SOCKS?

When we think about teaching children new words, we often focus on naming things (like "dog" or "ball") or actions (like "run" or "eat"). But it's also really important to help them learn early concepts. These are words like big, under or same. These are words that can have different meanings depending on how they're used making them trickier to learn.

One helpful way to teach these is by building on words your child already knows. For example, if they know "box" you can teach "in" by saying "in the box." This helps them understand new words in a way that makes sense.



## EQUIPMENT

You will need:

- A basketful of washing from the washing machine, clothes horse or tumble drier.

## OTHER WAYS TO PLAY

There are lots of opportunities to work on the concept of 'same'

\*Use bath time to label body parts and then use the word - 'same'.

E.g. "Bobby's leg" (and point), "Bobby's leg" (and point to the other) - "Same"

\*Getting lunch ready together and talking about the items on the plates and then sitting together and talking about lunch - E.g. "Mummy's raisins, Tommy's raisins - same"

\*Finding things that match when you are out on a walk / at the park.. E.g. "Look, Nannie's leaf, another leaf, same"

Remember, if they know 'same' you can add extra words such as 'big' or talk about where they are with words such as 'in' or 'under'

## HOW TO PLAY

Sorting clean washing is a great way to build your child's vocabulary and introduce important concept words like big, little, same, and different. Start simple and focus on one new word at a time. A great word to begin with is "same."

Use a pile of socks and find a matching pair. For example:

👉 "Daddy's sock... Daddy's sock... same!" (Hold them together as you say it.)

Then try another:

👉 "Mummy's sock... Mummy's sock... same!"  
If the socks don't match, just say "not same" instead of different, unless your child already understands and uses the word same confidently.

Once your child gets the hang of it, you can expand by:

- Finding all the big socks
- Talking about what's on the socks (e.g. "a dog!" or "dinosaurs!")

It might seem like a simple task, but it's a great way to connect, repeat new words, and build language naturally through everyday moments.