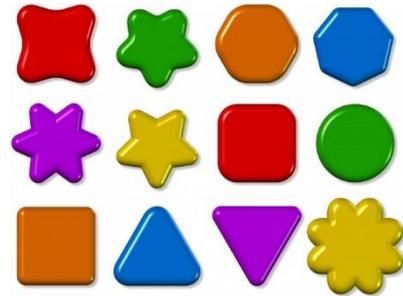


Concepts

To be able to perform everyday tasks your child needs to understand a variety of different concepts. Participation in conversations and classroom activities/routines, depends on your child's ability to understand concepts.

Types of concepts to focus on

- **Directions:** around, left, right, through, etc.
- **Shapes:** circle, square, round, triangle, etc.
- **Quantities:** some, few, many, all, etc.
- **Simple colours:** red, blue, yellow, green
- **Emotions:** happy sad, angry, etc.
- **Textures:** soft, hard, rough, smooth, etc.
- **Characteristics:** old, new, pretty, etc.
- **Size:** big, small, short, tall, etc.



Tips for practicing concepts

- **Start off with familiar concepts before you move on to more complex concepts.** Work on colours like blue and red before you work on complex colours like magenta, etc.
- **Once your child understands basic concept words like big and small, you can then incorporate different words such as huge and tiny.**
- **When working on a concept that involves opposites, work on the concept as a pair.** Your child needs to understand the pair to understand the whole concept. (e.g. Tall and short, hot and cold, etc.)
- **Set an example for your child by modelling a variety of different concept words.** Talk to your child about your surroundings and describe them. (e.g. "Look at the tall building. Look at the short building." "Feel the bumpy rock. Feel the smooth pebble.")
- **Ask your child questions and incorporate concepts into everyday play and conversations.** When your child is playing, ask them questions such as: "What does the bear feel like?" "What colour is the doll's shirt?" "Is the bear big or small?"

Ideas for practicing concepts



- **Play I Spy-** You can use any type of concept with this game. (e.g. "I spy something that is blue and round." "I spy something that is tall and on the table.") You can start out with laying a few items on the table in front of you and just play with those select items. Once your child grasps the idea of the game, you can play in a whole room or outside.
- **Barrier games-** To work on concepts, you could each take the same colouring page and put a barrier between the two of you so that you cannot see what the

other person is doing. Direct your child what to colour. (e.g. "Colour the ball green." "Colour the flower red." "Colour in the square." "Colour in the tall building." "Colour in all the ants." "Colour the swing blue.") When you are done, compare to see if they were able to understand the concepts you incorporated. If not, have your child explain his picture and you explain yours by pointing out the concepts. (e.g. "I coloured the flower red.")

- **Play Simon Says-** You can use any type of concept with this game! When you start off, you may need to demonstrate the action for your child before they do it. Make it fun by using your child's favourite character instead of Simon. (e.g. Spider-man says, Cinderella says, etc.) To incorporate concepts, say things like: "Make a sad face." "Pretend you are cold." "Point to the blue pillow." "Walk around the table." "Get a new stuffed animal." "Put all of the animals in a pile." "Draw a circle." When it's your turn to be Simon, perform the actions that they are requesting you to do incorrectly. Ask "Is this right?" This will give you an idea of how well your child understands the concepts you are working on. (e.g. If they say "get the blue plate," you would go and get the red plate and see if they correct you.)
- **Play Guess What-** Get together a variety of items and put them in a bag. Have your child pick an item from the bag while you close your eyes so that you cannot see the item. Have your child use concepts to describe the item and see if you can guess it. Then switch roles and see if your child can guess the item. (e.g. If your child picked a large stuffed bear out of the bag, they could say "it is big, fluffy and soft.")
- **Play Dough Creations-** Use play dough to create examples for a variety of concepts. Use cookie cutters or different textured objects to create the shape and texture of the play dough.
 - **Size:** Make a tall building and a short building and talk about how they are different
 - **Colour:** Ask your child to make a flower using red play dough.
 - **Shape:** Cut out different shapes of play dough and talk about them. "Look at the square. Can you make a circle?"
 - **Texture:** Roll out the play dough so it is nice and flat and smooth. Ask your child if it is rough or smooth.
 - **Quantities:** Ask your child to use all the play dough colours to make a house.

