



NUMBER SENSE · SPATIAL LANGUAGE
FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

Spatial Vocabulary Swaps

Position · direction · size · shape

Spatial words describe where things are, how they move, and what shape and size they are. Swapping a vague phrase for a precise word gives your child the language to notice and talk about space during everyday routines.

INSTEAD OF	TRY SAYING	EVERYDAY EXAMPLE
<i>“Put it there.”</i>	under, above, beside, between, behind	“Put your shoes beside the door.”
<i>“It’s here.”</i>	inside, outside, beneath, on top of	“Your teddy is inside the basket.”
<i>“That one.”</i>	left, right, middle	“Choose the block in the middle.”
<i>“Move it.”</i>	slide, turn, flip	“Slide the puzzle piece toward the corner.”
<i>“Turn it.”</i>	quarter-turn, half-turn	“Give the block a half-turn.”
<i>“It’s big.”</i>	tall, wide, long, thick	“That tower is tall.”
<i>“It’s little.”</i>	short, narrow, thin	“This ribbon is narrower than that one.”
<i>“It’s far.”</i>	farther, nearer, closer	“The red car is farther from the ramp.”
<i>“That round thing.”</i>	circle, sphere	“The drawn shape is a circle; the ball is a sphere.”
<i>“That box shape.”</i>	square, rectangle, cube	“This block is a cube.”
<i>“That part.”</i>	edge, corner, side	“Find the corner of the puzzle piece.”
<i>“That line.”</i>	straight, curved	“Follow the curved line.”
<i>“Put them together.”</i>	beside, on top of, line up	“Line up the blocks beside one another.”

TRY IT TODAY

Pick one row and use it on purpose during a single routine, like tidying up or building with blocks. Once the new word feels natural, add another.