

Hide & Seek with Teddy!

Here's a great game to play with your little one - it's fun finding Teddy and learning about prepositions and verbs too! You can adapt the language to suit your child's needs. Children generally show understanding of early prepositions (in, on, under) at around 2-2 1/2 years, and learn more complex ones (next to, behind, in front of) later at around 3-4 years.

All you need is a Teddy bear - or your child's favorite cuddly toy, a phone camera and lots of energy!

How to play

First you can play hide and seek with Teddy around the room. By being a play partner, you're helping them to understand how to play the game with their friends later.

Explain and narrate what you're going to do: 'Teddy's going to hide and we'll find him and then take his picture on my phone.' 'First I'll hide Teddy, and then you look for him and take his picture.' 'Then it will be your turn to hide Teddy, and I'll look for him.' 'No Peeking you watch the timer on the phone while I hide Teddy.' Leave gaps to check your child's understanding, 'First I hide _____ (Teddy) then _____ (look for him and take a picture)' You can count to ten with your child (or even count backwards with an older child) or have them count while they watch a timer set on the phone.

Tips:

-Encourage communication by talking or signing (or use both) while you look for Teddy, 'Is he under the table / in the box / on the shelf?' 'Here he is!' Start with in, on, and under. When children have mastered those then you can start adding in ones that are more abstract (in front of, behind, next to etc.)

-Add some mental state terms too (think, wonder, know etc) “I wonder where Teddy’s hiding?’ ‘I think he’s behind the curtain’

-Help your child to take a turn hiding Teddy for you or another adult/child to find.

-Take photos of your favorite cuddly toy in different places in your house.

Then look through the photos and ask ‘Where’s Teddy?’ ‘He’s under the desk’ This is a great opportunity to go over vocabulary for furniture around the house. Use these pictures to provide repeated practice for them throughout the month, let them explain and encourage them to show dad, grandma, grandpa and others where Teddy has been hiding. They might want to play a game of Hide and Seek with Teddy too!

****Pick one or a few of these tips to focus on each time you play. Repetition is key to building vocabulary - so have fun playing this everyday activity many times this month!**