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Games you can play using the preposition cards:

Game 1 - Which Picture?

This example is using the frog and hat picture cards.

Depending on the age and ability of the child it might help to have a hat of some kind and an object such as a soft toy. This way you can demonstrate the actions and allow the child to have a go at placing the toy in the same positions as shown on the cards. The physical actions can greatly help in reinforcing language understanding and usage.

Spread the cards out in front of the child with the pictures face upwards. Then ask them to point to the card that shows for example; the frog on top of the hat.

If the child does not understand what you mean by something being on top you show them the card and explain. Then using the hat and soft toy demonstrate again placing the toy on top of the hat. You could also then change it so that the hat is on top of the toy's head or even your head. Then ask the child to put the hat on top of their head or that of the toy.

Try another card for example; can they point to the frog in front of the hat. Again, if the child is unsure you can use your props to help them and by asking them to stand in front of something, such as a table or chair.

If the child is finding the activity challenging then only pick on 4 or 5 cards to try. I would suggest you start with cards that show the following:

- 1. Cards that show in front of... such as the frog in front of the hat.
- 2. Cards that show behind the ... such as the frog behind the hat.
- 3. Cards that show on top of ... such as the frog on top of the hat.
- 4. Cards that show under the ... such as the frog under the hat.
- 5. Cards that show next to... such as the frog next to the hat.

Game 2 - Tell me

In this game the picture cards are placed face down and you ask the child to pick a card and to explain the position of the objects in the picture. If they get it right, they get to keep the card if it is incorrect the card is taken out of the game.

When the game is over you look at the cards taken out of the game with the child and talk about the object positions in relation to one another.

The aim is that each time you play the game the number of cards the child keeps increases so that they are always trying to improve on their personal best.

Another way of playing this is to take it in turns to pick a card. If the explanation is correct then the card is kept, if not, it is returned face down with the remaining cards. The winner is the one with the most cards.

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Game 3 - Copy Cat

You will need a few items for this game such as a box, car, soft toy, hat or anything which will allow the child to place an object on top, below or inside.

In this game the picture cards are placed face down and you ask the child to pick a card and to put the objects you are using into the same positions.

What are prepositions?

"A word used with a noun or pronoun to show place, position, time or means, e.g. at home, in the hall, on Sunday, by train." Definition from Oxford School Dictionary, third edition 2002.

Here are just some preposition and directional phrases you might like to use:

Going up the Going down the ... Going towards the... Going away from ...

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On the ... On top of the ... Above the ... Over the...

Under the... Below the ... Beneath ... Underneath ...

Behind the ...

In front of the...

Next to ... Beside the ... On the right of ... To the right of ... On the right-hand side ... On the left of ... To the left of ... On the left-hand side... Before the ... After the ...

In the... Inside the ...

Out of the ... Outside of the ...

Between the ... In between the ... In the middle ... In the center ...
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