



Inspiring young minds...

Spatial Awareness and Understanding Directions

Objective

To be spatially aware and have basic understanding of simple directions.

Resources

Few obstacles and a large area to walk around.

www.themouseclub.co.uk web site (games section).

Preparation

Decide on an area within the building or just outside and put out a few obstacles for the children to walk round.

Early Learning Goals

- **Personal, social & emotional development:** Chat with confidence and share ideas in a group. Consider where certain objects could be placed so children can walk around them safely.
- **Communication, language & literacy:** Listen to each other, explore and develop vocabulary. Discuss the different things they noticed. Record: what we saw, what we heard, what we could smell.
- **Mathematical development:** Positional vocabulary - next to, bigger than, opposite. Opportunity to count footsteps. Show the children the short obstacle course. Choose a spot and ask individual children to stand there. Ask them to move to a chosen obstacle and then around it. Talk about how they are moving. Use directional language - I am moving forward, backward, sideways. Do they need to change direction?

There is opportunity here for counting – how many footsteps does it take to get from A to B? For older children investigate - would a taller child manage to walk in fewer steps or more? Try guessing how many steps it would take.

Resource: www.themouseclub.co.uk (games section - puzzles) opportunities for counting a variety of objects and use of arrow keys for work on directions.

- **Knowledge and understanding of the world:** Show curiosity about their immediate environment.
- **Physical development:** Controls movements, starts and stops on request.
- **Creative development:** Shake a tambourine or beat a drum to encourage children to think about high and low and fast and slow movements.

Alternatively make a display of the story 'The Three Little Pigs'.

Activity

Play 'Follow my leader'. Make a different shape as a starting point each time. Use directional language to remind children to change direction.

Links with Home

Parents can talk about directions with child when going to and from nursery. If travelling in car talk about the indicators and how they are used to tell other motorists of intention to turn corners.