



Spatial Concepts and Relationships Early Skills with Preschoolers

by Becky L. Spivey, M.Ed.

Spatial concepts (a category of basic concepts) define the relationship between us and objects, as well as the relationships of objects to each other. As our language begins to develop, early spatial concepts such as **in front of, behind, top, bottom, over, under, last, between, farthest, backward, in, on, etc.**, help us understand directions more precisely, ask detailed questions, and express our ideas to others. For preschoolers and young students, an awareness or understanding of spatial concepts and relationships usually predicts later success in math, reading, and following directions.

Read the full article at

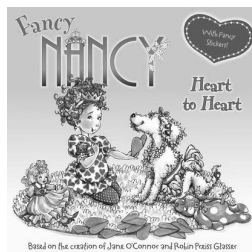
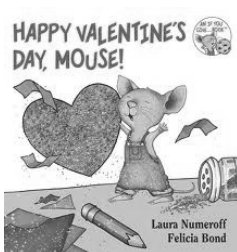
http://www.superduperinc.com/handouts/pdf/240_SpatialConcepts.pdf



Don't forget that you can become a Mystery Reader in your child's class. Mystery Readers are welcome to choose any age-appropriate book to share with the class. You may bring a book from home or choose one from our classroom library. Please send a note to your child's teacher if you would like to share your love of books and reading with your child's class.

Help your Child's Imagination Take FLIGHT! READ A BOOK!

Visit your local Library to find these and other books about Valentine's Day



Parents As Reading Partners Reading is Music to Our Ears!



Watch for PARP information in your child's Backpack!



Learning to read is the single most important activity in a child's education. Studies show that children who read at home are better prepared to succeed in formal education. PARP is a program that asks parents to read with their children for at least fifteen minutes daily, stressing the fact that reading can be fun as well as informative. The choice of reading materials can vary from books to anything with printed words. The daily activity of reading together strengthens reading and communication skills in the child and also strengthens the parent/child relationship. (Note: The term 'parents' may be interpreted broadly to include all adults who play an important role in a child's life.)

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<https://www.facebook.com/AlternativesForChildren>

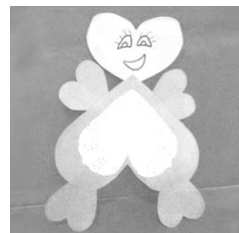
For more Resources & Parenting Tips



Valentine's Day Fine Motor Activities for the Whole Family



Laced Heart: Need poster board/heavy construction paper in Valentine colors, hole punch, tape, ribbon. Cut a large heart shape out of the poster board. Let your child punch holes around the outside edge of the heart. Tape one end of the ribbon between two holes, leaving an inch or two free to make a bow later. Show your child how to weave the ribbon through the holes. Tie the ends in a bow.



Heart People: Need construction paper (red, white, pink) child safety scissors, glue stick. On the construction paper, draw hearts ranging in size from 2 to 6 inches. Let your child cut out the hearts. Glue the hearts together in different combinations to form Heart People, using large hearts for heads and bodies, smaller ones for arms, legs, and so on.



Handprint & Footprint Valentine:

Try this messy, but fun-filled sensory activity. Find all the instructions at:

<http://www.kiwicrate.com/projects/Handprint-and-Footprint-Valentines/739>

Ten Teeth Truths for Toddlers . . . And Big Kids Too!



#1 Even before teeth come in, you can take care of your child's mouth by cleaning his gums with a washcloth. Take your child for his first dental visit within six months of his first tooth, or by his first birthday.

#2 Help your preschooler brush her teeth at least twice a day (after breakfast and before bed) to keep them healthy and strong.

#3 Young children should brush their teeth for about 2 minutes. While brushing your child's teeth together, try playing some music or singing the ABC song four times to help him keep track of time.

#4 Look for children's toothbrushes with small heads and soft or extra-soft bristles. Help your child get excited about brushing by letting her choose the color.

#5 A little toothpaste goes a long way! Help children ages 2–5 add a pea-size amount to their toothbrushes. For children under 2, just a smear will do.

#6 Teeth love crunchy fruits and vegetables! With your child, try some tooth-friendly foods, such as apples, pears, carrots, or celery. What does each food sound like when you take a bite?

#7 Drinking water helps keep bodies healthy and strong. Water can also help wash food away from teeth if there isn't time to brush after a snack.

#8 It takes a team to keep teeth healthy. Visit your dental office twice a year and stay in touch with your child's primary-care physician.

#9 Talk with your child about the grown-ups who can help him take care of his teeth: the doctor, nurse, dentist, hygienist...and you!

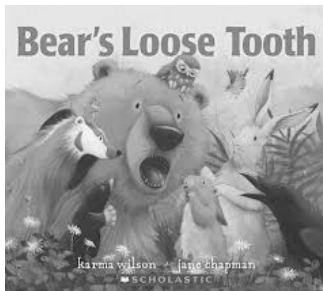
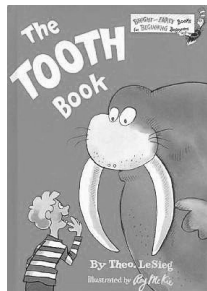
#10 If it's hard to visit a dental office because of cost or distance, check online or ask your local health department about mobile dental clinics or low-cost services near you.

Check out Sesame Street for info/games/activities!

<http://www.sesamestreet.org/parents/topicsandactivities/topics/teeth>

Download a Tooth Brushing Chart

<http://www.ada.org/sections/publicResources/pdfs/>

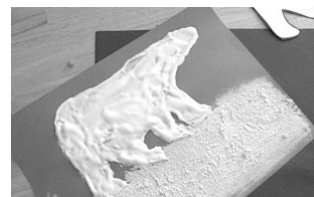


Making Puffy Paint

Materials Needed: Shaving Cream, Elmer's White Glue, Food Coloring, sponge brush, oak tag or heavy construction paper.

Instructions: To make a batch of puffy paint, simply mix equal parts of shaving cream and Elmer's glue, (1/4 cup of each). Add food coloring, a few drops at a time, until you get the desired color.

Paint on oak tag or heavy construction paper using a sponge brush. Let the painting dry.



Preschool Literacy Apps For ipad and smartphone

These iPad and Smartphone apps focus on pre-literacy and literacy skills for young children. These are apps that we use on our school iPads so the children are familiar with them.

Abby Monkey - first words for preschoolers
sold by CFC s.r.o.

ABC Alphabet Phonics - Preschool
sold by Grasshopper Apps

ABC Writing Zoo Animals
sold by Hein Ton

Alphabet Tracing
sold by Oncilla Technologies Inc.

Elmo Loves ABCs
sold by Sesame Street

iWriteWords
sold by gdiplus

MeeGenius - Read Along Library
sold by MeeGenius, Inc.

Super Why
sold by PBS Kids



Thank you Lisa Caselles,
Preschool Teacher & Ed Tech Specialist
for this wonderfully useful information

Play Activities to Improve Balance

- Walking backwards/sideways.
- Walking on a balance beam - to do this at home take masking tape or duct tape and "tape" a 4" wide balance beam on the floor.
- Pushing/pulling toys - Make toys heavier/lighter to make it easier/harder. Let your child "push" the grocery cart.
- Catching/Throwing - Throw a ball to each other or into a bucket.