Basic Concepts

Concepts are learned through listening, watching, exploring and playing. Concepts are important when following directions and completing activities at home and at school. You can help your child develop this ability at home.

Here are a few ways you can help build your child’s understanding of concepts:

- Teach the concept in relation to the child’s body, for example, put your hand beside your face/put your right foot on top of your left foot
- Use objects to teach concepts. Show the meaning of the concept first, for example, “I am putting the toy BETWEEN the box and the paper. Can you put the flower BETWEEN the box and the paper?”
- Repeat, Repeat, Repeat. The more your child practices and hears/sees different concepts being used the easier it will be for them to understand.

The following are activities that target concepts at home. These activities will only take a few minutes, please choose a few each week if you can. Encourage your child and have fun with these activities. Remember to create a good listening environment.

Activities targeting Concepts at Home
(Rebecca D. Yeats, Communication Skill Builders, 1995)

1. Talk about body parts and which parts have 1, 2, or more. For example, we have 10 fingers. We have less fingers than teeth.
2. Ask your child to give you a few pieces of an item such as an apple, only 1 piece or all.
3. Talk about things that are different sizes, put out 3 cups of different sizes. Discuss concepts such as bigger, smaller, equal, small, medium, large.
4. Talk about things around the house that are tall/short, thick/thin, narrow/wide, long/short
5. Give your child directions to follow to find a special hidden object, for example, “go under the chair, beside the desk, above the bookshelf. Then have your child hide an object and provide you with directions to follow to find the hidden item.