



Be Creative with Words

Using Math Language

Beginner: When talking with your child use words like: up, down, left, right, above, below, under, through, near, far, between, beside, more, less, front, back.

[Tip]: When using the word in a sentence try to exaggerate it. “Look, we found a worm under the rock!”

Intermediate: Encourage your child to describe where an object or toy is using words from the beginner level and others like: first, second, third, greater than, less than, fewer.

[Tip]: The number of red flowers is greater than the number of yellow flowers.

Experienced: Ask your child to do specific tasks using words like: first, second, third, fewer, more, right, left, up, down, below, under, through, near, far, between, beside, more, less.

[Tip]: While cleaning, “Find 3 things from under your bed,” or while playing catch, “Take 2 steps to the left.”

Why is this important? Math language helps to develop problem solving skills and understand instructions.

References: VandeWalle, J. A. (2015). Elementary and Middle School Mathematics: Teaching Developmentally. Pearson Canada, p. 417.