

Teaching concepts

Concepts are words that describe an object and often come in opposite pairs. The examples below are common early developing concepts:

- **Size:** big/little, long/short, tall/small
- **Touch/Look:** wet/dry, clean/dirty, hard/soft, hot/cold, rough/smooth
- **Sound:** noisy/quiet
- **Movement:** fast/slow, open/shut
- **Position:** in, on, under, above, below, behind, in front, between, next to
- **Quantity:** empty/full, more, lots, some, most, all, half/whole
- **Order & Time:** after/before, first/last, day/night, earlier/later
- **Weight:** heavy/light

Top Tips:

- ✓ Choose one word to focus on at a time and say it in the exact same way.
- ✓ Repeat the word over and over in activities and in everyday situations.
- ✓ Set-up play activities that lend themselves to your chosen word, for example if the chosen word is 'full', play in the garden filling up buckets and cups with water and sand.
- ✓ Teach the word in your home language. If a child understands the concept in their home language, this will help them with the word in English.



- ✗ Do not use the opposite word, as this can be confusing for children. If 'fast' is being taught, say 'not fast' rather than 'slow'.
- ✗ Don't change the way you say the word. If you start with 'fast', stick to this, don't change the word to 'faster' or 'quick'.