



# Object Hide and Seek

The purpose of this activity is to promote children's spatial navigation skills and spatial vocabulary as they explore their environment. In this activity, children use spatial vocabulary as clues to find a hidden object.

## Key Concepts

- Explore the relationship between objects.
- Use spatial vocabulary to describe the position and direction of objects (for example, above, behind, between).

## Materials and Setup

- Objects for hiding (for example, bean bags, toys, stuffed animals)
- Spatial vocabulary cards (see pages 4–9)



10–15 minutes



Small group or whole group



Small group tables or on the floor

## Activity Instructions

This activity can be facilitated in several ways. Two options are described below.

### Option 1

1. Select the object that children will hide.
2. Ask the “finder” to close their eyes. Ask one child to hide the object while the other children observe.
3. Ask the “finder” to open their eyes. Invite individual children to offer clues about the object's location. Encourage them to use spatial vocabulary.
4. Repeat the spatial words they use—for example, “Oh, is it **under** the box?”

*Option 2 activity instructions begin on the next page.*

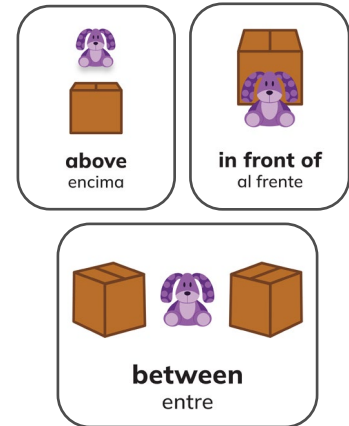




## Option 2

1. Select several children to be “hidere.” This group works together to hide the object. Note: You might invite hidere to hide more than one object.
2. Invite the other children to be “findere.” This group works together to find the object.
3. Tell the findere to close their eyes. While the findere’s eyes are closed, the hidere hide the object.
4. Support the hidere to provide clues using spatial vocabulary. Hidere may also use spatial vocabulary cards to provide clues to findere. Children might point to a card or use gestures to communicate about position or direction. Some examples of phrases children might use include:

- a. The [name of object] is **above** the \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. The [name of object] is **in front of** \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. The [name of object] is **between** \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.



## Using M<sup>5</sup> to Support Children’s Spatial Thinking

This section offers ways to use the M<sup>5</sup> Early Math Approach to support children’s early math learning and development during this activity.

### Mutual Learning

- Observe the gestures and vocabulary children use to describe the location of the object. For example:
  - ◇ Which spatial vocabulary do they tend to use more often? Which words might you introduce to children?
  - ◇ Notice how multilingual learners use spatial vocabulary. Do they use their home language, English, or a combination of languages?

### Meaningful Math Investigations

- As children become more comfortable giving directions, provide specific rules on where they can hide objects. For example:
  - ◇ Explain that the object must be on top of at least one other object and next to two objects.
- Consider inviting “findere” to ask questions to help them find the hidden object.



### Materials and Learning Environment

- Consider ways to set up the environment to create varying ways for children to hide objects and find objects. For example:
  - ◇ Add boxes and scarves for children to hide their objects under.
  - ◇ Move chairs, tables, or other furniture to create obstacles for children to navigate around.

### Math Language and Discourse

- Encourage children to use spatial vocabulary describing the location or distance the object is from something else. Consider using the spatial vocabulary cards for additional support. For example:
  - ◇ Invite children to use words such as “close,” “closer,” “far,” and “farther.”

### Multiple Representations

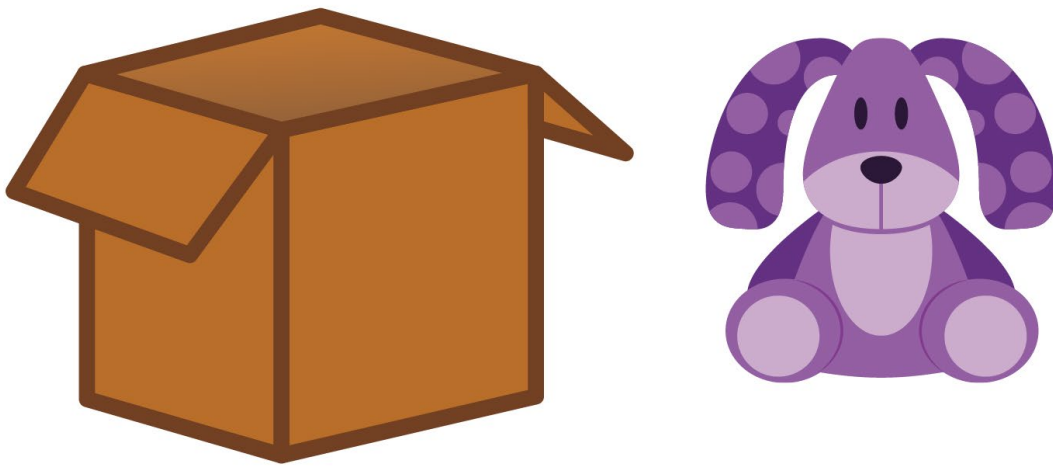
- Consider other ways children can communicate about spatial location, direction, and distance. For example:
  - ◇ Invite children to draw a map or use gestures to show where the object is hidden.



# Spatial Vocabulary Cards



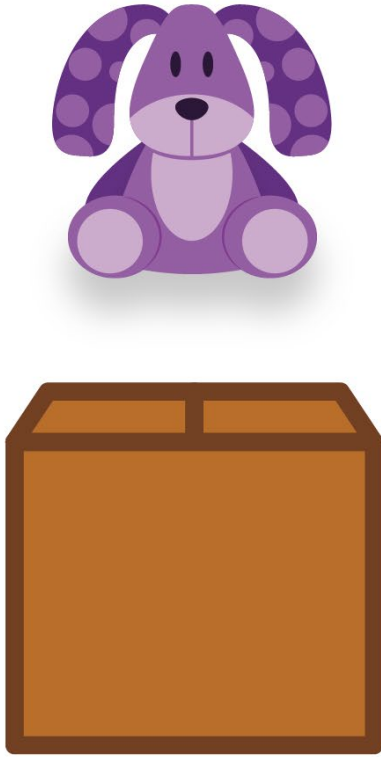
**between**  
entre



**outside**  
fuera de



**next to**  
cerca de



**above**  
encima



**behind**  
detrás



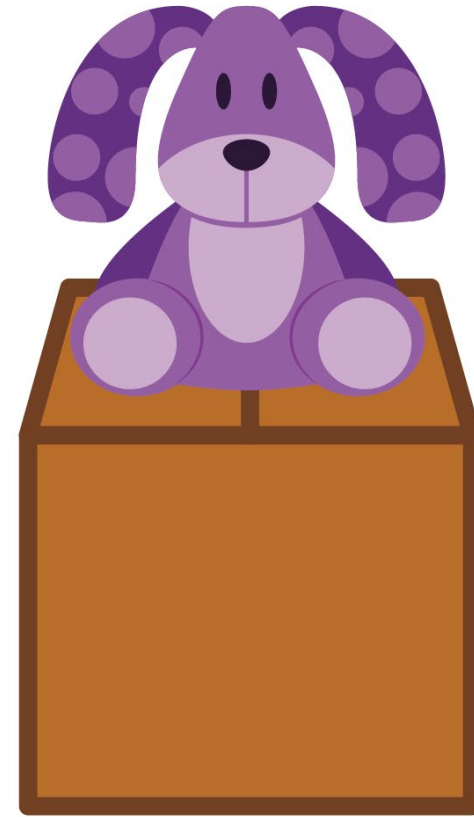
**below**  
abajo



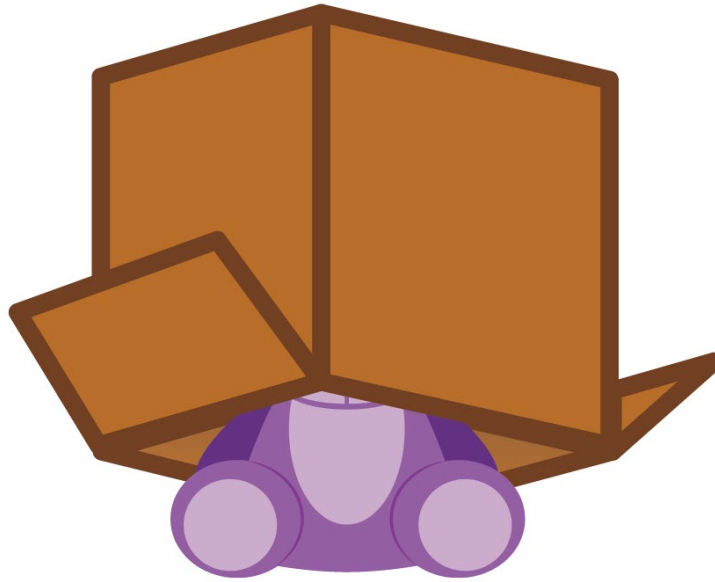
**inside**  
adentro



**in front of**  
al frente



**on**  
sobre



**under**  
debajo