

# Under 3 years

# Spatial Reasoning Toolkit

At this age children will be developing an awareness of their own bodies, exploring space, investigating and manipulating objects, enjoying hiding and exploring different viewpoints.

You can encourage their spatial development by providing ample time for exploration and by using spatial words during play and everyday routines.



head,  
arms,  
legs,  
feet

## Floor play

Developing body awareness



long way  
away, bumpy,  
corner,  
high, low

## Outdoor play

Thinking about routes and  
different viewpoints



long,  
short, round,  
curvy,  
flat

## Malleable materials

Responding to changes in  
shape and size



on, up,  
down, big,  
small

## Stacking and nesting toys

Building towers 'up' to knock  
'down', choosing bricks to build



in, out,  
full,  
all gone

## Sand and water play

Developing interest in filling  
and emptying containers, and  
hiding and revealing objects



big, small,  
full, in, out

## Transporting

Experiencing what will fit,  
exploring routes, distance  
and position



big, small,  
teeny, giant,  
round

## Books

Responding to hand gestures  
and words to point out size  
differences, e.g., 'big cat, small  
cat' and shape properties, e.g.,  
'pointy teeth'



in, curvy,  
turn, over there

## Puzzles

Beginning to use the  
shape and size of pieces  
to fit

EARLY  
CHILDHOOD  
MATHS GROUP

<https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/jnwpu>

<https://earlymaths.org/spatial-reasoning/>

@EChildhoodMaths

