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.

Floor play
Developing body awareness

- head, arms, legs, feet
- long way away, bumpy, corner, high, low
- long, short, round, curvy, flat

Stacking and nesting toys
Building towers ‘up’ to knock ‘down’, choosing bricks to build

- on, up, down, big, small

Sand and water play
Developing interest in filling and emptying containers, and hiding and revealing objects

- in, out, full, all gone

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’

- big, small, teeny, giant, round

Outdoor play
Thinking about routes and different viewpoints

- in, curvy, turn, over there

Malleable materials
Responding to changes in shape and size

- big, small, full, in, out

Puzzles
Beginning to use the shape and size of pieces to fit

- in, out, full, all gone

Transporting
Experiencing what will fit, exploring routes, distance and position

- big, small, full, in, out

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