

Maps and Directions

How this will help your child

- This activity will help your child to follow and use directions to make a journey.
- It will also help them to practise telling apart left and right.

Words and phrases to use

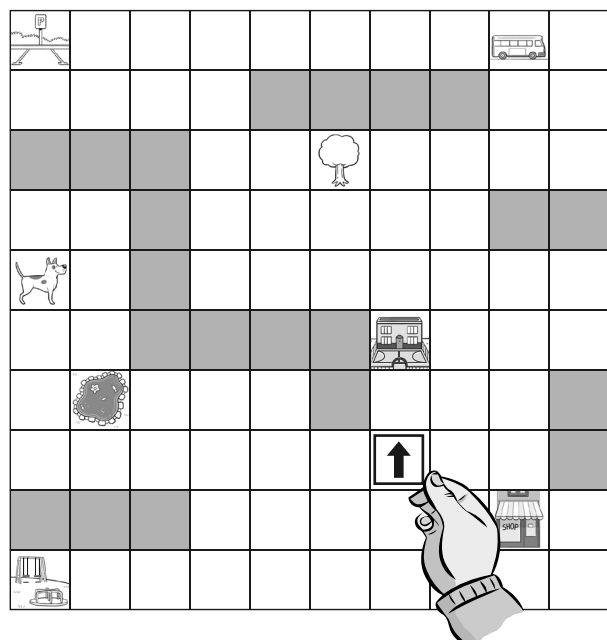
up, down, left, right, forwards, backwards, turn right, turn left, do a half turn, go forward three steps, start, finish

You will need

- Scissors

During the activity, look at what your child can do

- Use directions to make a real-life journey.
- Use directions to make a journey on a map.
- Understand the difference between left and right.



What to do

- Make up directions for a journey from one place to another place within your home. You could use words and phrases similar to those in the words and phrases list.
- Now, ask your child to follow your directions to see where they lead to.
- Repeat for other journeys around the home. Discuss how the directions change if you change the start and finish places for the journey.
- Ask your child to make up some directions for another journey around the home. You could choose a starting place and a finish place for them.
- Encourage your child to make their directions as exact as possible.
- Cut out the arrow counter from the Maps and Directions sheet.
- Look at the map with your child and help them to identify each picture (school, shop, park, dog, bus stop, pond, tree, car park). Explain that the grey areas are obstacles.
- Choose a start and finish position on the map, e.g. from the park to the school, and ask your child to describe the directions to get from start to finish, e.g. go forward six squares, turn left, go forward four squares. They could move the arrow counter along to help them. **1**
- Choose a start position on the map and, without telling your child where they are going, give directions for them to find the finish.

Next steps...

- Ask your child to draw a map of one of the rooms in your home, a floor of your home or a map of a garden or park.
- When you are out and about ask your child to give directions for your journey.

