

Understanding what is said

TIDY UP TIME



BRAVE
THE BEAR

THE AIM OF THE GAME

Help 'tidy up', or get involved in 'sorting out'.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Tidying up or sorting out provides opportunities to follow instructions. You can make these instructions easier or more complicated, depending on the child's language level.

HOW TO DO IT

Either set up the situation where toys are spread around, or do this activity at the end of a play session: Ask the child to help you put things away in the places that you say.

Say things like "Put the brush in the basket" or "Put the red car in the blue box". Involve other people or toys by saying things like "Get teddy to pick up the big box and put it near the chair".

You can play this game outside or inside. Be a bit silly – suggest funny places to put things, e.g. "Put the car in the pencil box". This encourages better listening and understanding from the child, although it mixes up the toys for next time!

TOO DIFFICULT?

Use shorter, broken-up instructions, e.g. "Find the brush", then "Now, put it in the basket".

Alternatively, pass the child objects to tidy away, e.g. "Put this in the box".

TOO EASY?

Increase the length of sentences, e.g. "Find the smallest brick and put it in the big red box". Make the game more challenging by taking the item further away, or out of sight. This helps build a child's understanding of sentences and also their memory for words.