

Understanding what is said
BUILD A TOWER LIKE MINE



**BRAVE
THE BEAR**

Understanding what is said
BUILD A TOWER LIKE MINE

THE AIM OF THE GAME

Making identical towers.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Understanding complex instructions without visual clues is difficult. This activity helps prepare for later in school when instructions get more complex, with no visual clues.

HOW TO DO IT

Find two sets of identical bricks with eight to ten in each set. (Ensure that the colours and sizes of the bricks in each set are the same – if one set has a big blue brick and a small yellow brick, so should the other.)

Give one set of bricks to the child, and hide your set of bricks behind a barrier, e.g. under a blanket or towel, so the child can't see them. Explain that you're going to make a tower; and that you want them to make one the same. As you build your tower, tell the child which bricks go on next. Continue until there are five or six bricks in the tower.

Reveal your tower – is the child's the same? (Instead of bricks you can thread beads or use a pegboard.)

TOO DIFFICULT?

Have fewer bricks in each set to choose from, or make a smaller tower. Help the child find each brick as soon as you put it on your tower. If the child doesn't yet know colour-words, use the same coloured bricks in different sizes, e.g. "I'm using a big brick" or "Now, I'm putting a small one on".

TOO EASY?

Talk about two or three bricks at a time. Offer less help and encourage the child to listen and follow the instructions for themselves. Or give more information about each brick, e.g. "I'm starting with a small blue brick and then a big red one".