

Prepositions & Following Directions

Grab and Go Directions

Supplies

- 2-page handout below

About the 2-page handout below

- Use actions to introduce children to the prepositions
- Introduce a few at a time, then repeat when you return and “play” again.
- Add new prepositions when a student seems to understand the first ones.

Information to Consider When You Have More Time

PREPOSITIONS

FYI: The NYS Next Generation Mathematics Learning Standards use prepositions in Prekindergarten (NY-PK.G.1) Kindergarten (NY-K.G.1) as part of early geometry, to describe the relative positions of objects, such as shapes.

Prepositions that are **ONLY** Listed for Prekindergarten

- Up-Down
- Top-Bottom
- Under-Over

Prepositions Listed for **BOTH** Prekindergarten and Kindergarten

- Above-Below
- In front of – Behind
- Next to

Preposition that is **ONLY** Listed for Kindergarten

- Beside

Find Books to Read that Demonstrate these and other Prepositions

For example, Reading A-Z/RAZ Plus has the following books available in English and Spanish:

- [Over](#) - This story has multiple examples demonstrating the meaning of the word, “Over.”
- [Under](#) - This story uses multiple examples to demonstrate the meaning of the word, “Under.”
- [Building with Blocks](#) - This story does not use any of the prepositions, but during a follow-up activity with blocks you could use all six prepositions to talk about stacking the blocks.
- [My Body](#) - This story does not use any of the prepositions, but you could use prepositions in a follow-up activity to act out pictures in the story or create new ones. For example, “Put one foot **over** the chair.”
- [Opposites](#) - This story includes an example of the words, “Up” and “Down.”
- [Up and Down](#) - This story has multiple examples demonstrating the meaning of the words, “Up” and “Down.”
- [Swing, Sydney, Swing!](#) - This story demonstrates the words “above,” “below,” and “beside.”

GIVING DIRECTIONS TO YOUNG CHILDREN

One-Step Directions: The easiest directions for young children to follow have one object and one action to remember. In the example, “Raise your hand,”

- there is one action (*Raise*) and one object (*your hand*).

Two-Step Directions: The sample, “Put your hands up,” has

- Two actions (*Put...up*), and one object (*your hands*).

Three-Step Directions might contain too much information for the beginning learner to remember. The [UpWeeGrow](#) website provides the following examples of three-step directions:

- **1 action and 3 objects**, (e.g., “Bring me the shoe, cup, and ball.”)
- **3 objects that are related** (e.g., “Put the baby doll on the chair and give her the bottle.”)

Tip: *When a student only seems to follow part of your directions, you can break apart the directions into shorter sentences. Remember to **PAUSE and WAIT** after each sentence, to give the student time to process what you said and then do that step.*

Acknowledgements:

- Images: <https://pixabay.com> and *WORD's Stock Supply*
- 3-Step Directions - [UpWeeGrow.com](#)

Prepositions & Following Directions

Handout Directions:

- Demonstrate the actions with your hands, while describing your actions.
- Give the student “wait time” when you give them directions.

Here are my hands.

- Where are **your** hands?



UP & DOWN

I will hold my hands **UP**.

- Put **your** hands **UP**.

Now, I will put my hands **DOWN**.

- Put **your** hands **DOWN**?



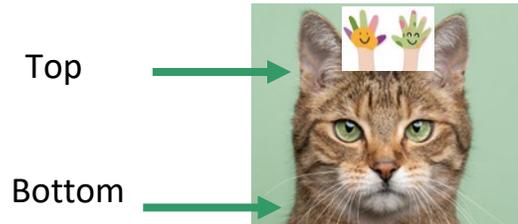
TOP & BOTTOM

This is the **TOP** of my head.

- Touch the **TOP** of **your** head.

This is the **BOTTOM** of my head. (*under your chin*)

- Touch the **BOTTOM** of **your** head.



OVER & UNDER

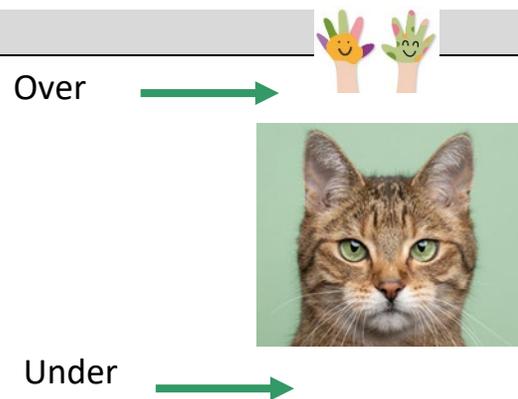
I will hold my hands **OVER** my head.

- Hold your hands **OVER your** head.

Now, I will hold my hands **UNDER** my head.

- Hold your hands **UNDER your** head.

(*You can put your hands down.*)



This is my head.

- Where is your head?



These are my hands.

- Where are your hands?

ABOVE & BELOW

I will put my hands **ABOVE** my head.

- Put your hands **ABOVE your** head.

Above →



Now, I will put my hands **BELOW** my head.

- Put your hands **BELOW your** head.

Under →



(You can put your hands down.)

IN FRONT OF & BEHIND

I will put my hands **IN FRONT OF** my head.

- Put your hands **IN FRONT OF your** head.



Now, I will put my hands **BEHIND** my head.

- Put your hands **BEHIND your** head.



NEXT TO & BESIDE

I will put my hands **NEXT TO** my head.

- I can put my hands on this side, or the other side.
(to the right/to the left)
- Put your hands **NEXT TO your** head.



(You can put your hands down.)

This time, I will put my hands **BESIDE** my head.

- I can put my hands on this side, or the other side.
- Put your hands **BESIDE your** head.
- Either side.



Preposiciones y Seguir Indicaciones

Indicaciones de la hoja de trabajo:

- Muestre las acciones con sus manos y descríbalas al mismo tiempo.
- Dé al estudiante un tiempo de espera cuando le dé indicaciones.

Aquí están mis manos.

- ¿Dónde están **tus** manos?



ARRIBA & ABAJO

Pondré mis manos **ARRIBA**.

- Pon **tus** manos **ARRIBA**.

Ahora, pondré mis manos **ABAJO**.

- Pon **tus** manos **ABAJO**.



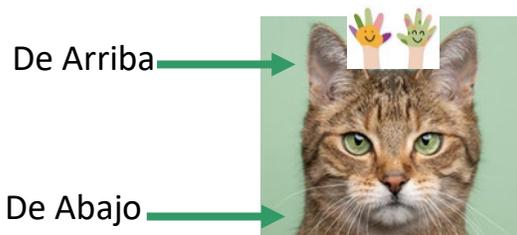
DE ARRIBA & DE ABAJO

Esta es la parte **DE ARRIBA** de mi cabeza.

- Toca la parte **DE ARRIBA** de **tu** cabeza.

Esta es la parte **DE ABAJO** de mi cabeza. (*debajo de su mentón*)

- Toca la parte **DE ABAJO** de **tu** cabeza.



SOBRE & DEBAJO DE

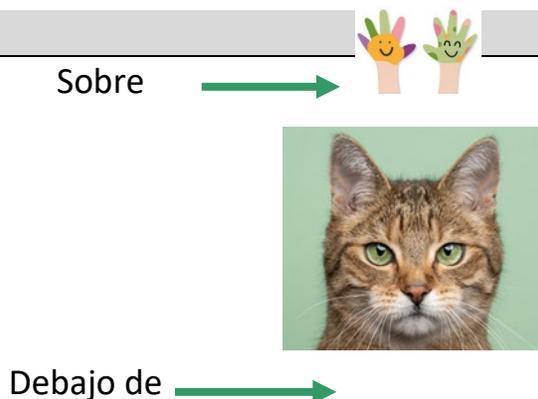
Voy a poner mis manos **SOBRE** mi cabeza.

- Pon tus manos **SOBRE tu** cabeza.

Ahora, voy a poner mis manos **DEBAJO DE** mi cabeza.

- Pon tus manos **DEBAJO DE tu** cabeza.

(*Puede bajar sus manos.*)



Esta es mi cabeza.

- ¿Dónde está tu cabeza?



Estas son mis manos.

- ¿Dónde están tus manos?

SOBRE & DEBAJO DE

Voy a poner mis manos **SOBRE** mi cabeza.

- Pon tus manos **SOBRE tu** cabeza.

Sobre 



Ahora, voy a poner mis manos **DEBAJO DE** mi cabeza.

- Pon tus manos **DEBAJO DE tu** cabeza.

Debajo de  

(Puede bajar sus manos.)

EN FRENTE DE & DETRÁS DE

Voy a poner mis manos **EN FRENTE DE** mi cabeza.

- Pon tus manos **EN FRENTE DE tu** cabeza.



Ahora, voy a poner mis manos **DETRÁS DE** mi cabeza.

- Pon tus manos **DETRÁS DE tu** cabeza.



AL LADO & JUNTO

Voy a poner mis manos **AL LADO DE** mi cabeza.

- Puedo poner mis manos en este lado o del otro lado.
(a la derecha/a la izquierda)
- Pon tus manos **AL LADO DE tu** cabeza.



(Puede bajar sus manos.)

Esta vez, voy a poner mis manos **JUNTO A** mi cabeza.

- Puedo poner mis manos en este lado o el otro lado.
- Pon tus manos **JUNTO A tu** cabeza.
- Cualquier lado.

