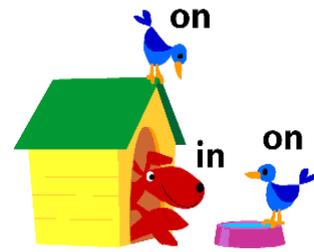


Basic Concepts!

An Informal Interactive Survey

By Char Boshart, M.A., CCC-SLP



Instructions: Use with K to 2nd graders.

- Say, “This is a fun game that’s all about YOU. What would you say if I asked you, ‘What is above your nose?’” Repeat as needed. Also, say the questions as written and provide few (if any) assistive prompts. You’re informally investigating their processing, and language comprehension and expressive abilities, and a few items you may need to cover in therapy.
- Make a “+” or “-“ in the short line to the left of each sentence. Write the child’s answer/response or your observations in the line to the right.
- No pictures or manipulatives are needed, just body parts and this sheet. Administer in your therapy room, or on-the-fly.

Basic Concepts gives you a good idea of their knowledge of prepositions as well as body parts, and, a sense of their language processing, direction following abilities, and expressive abilities.

Ideally *Basic Concepts* is administered one-on-one, but it can be used in a small group setting to stimulate thinking and discussion. It was originally created as a one-page quick, informal analysis of following directions and basic concepts, primarily prepositions. But after personally using this with several children I discovered the unrestricted versatility of this tool. Use it as you wish. Use it as an informal source with your therapy-child to glean personalized receptive and expressive language information. The entire *Basic Concepts* survey can be repeated as many times as you want.

Make note of the content of their answers, but also, how they process and how they respond. Does the child need to look at their body part (or yours) to determine an answer, or do they process it in their mind? To question #1, for example, “What is above your nose?” some kids point to their nose or your nose, or, they point above their nose, or above your nose. Ask the question again and ask them to use their words and *tell* you. Interestingly, regarding this question, you can almost determine the sophistication of the child’s vocabulary. If they point to and say “forehead” (as opposed to “eyes,” the typical answer) chances are good their language skills are average or above.

Also, do they echo or repeat part or all of the question (i.e., “nose”), instead of answering the question. Do they respond in one-word answers? Which could be considered correct until numbers 19 and 20.

Most questions can have a variety of answers; some are more correct than others and some are just incorrect. It can give you an insight as to how the child processes and thinks. For example, in #3, “What is below your knee?” The child may respond with “the rest of my leg” (appropriate), or “foot” (appropriate), or “the floor” (this answer is not what you’re looking for, although it is “below their knee”).

Another example is #4, “What is in the middle of your body?” Some kids will say “stomach” or “tummy” or “belly button” or “waist”. If they say “torso,” dismiss the kid! In #15, “What is on the front of your face?” any legitimate facial-part would be correct. Conversely, question #17, “What is between your head and shoulders?” there is only one correct answer, “neck.”

The last five questions seem to be the hardest and require the most thought. Such as, #16, “What is behind your tummy?” This is a good one to see if they take time to process the answer and what they come up with. Some say, “stomach” or “heart” or “my insides” or “my back.” Any of those would be appropriate. If they say, “foot,” consider addressing the term “behind.” Also, questions #19 and #20, “What do you always/never do with your nose?” are definitely thought questions. Give them time to process; they usually come up with some interesting and sometimes, really cute answers.

Question #18, “Do you have fewer, the same, or more ears than fingers?” is different. Consider alerting the child to listen carefully and repeat the question twice. Give them processing time. If they know the concepts (fewer, same, more) they’ll come up with the answer. If not, they won’t.

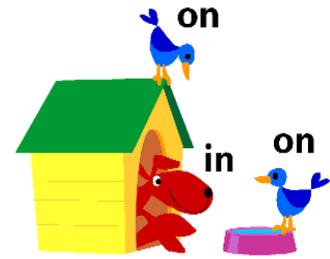
The *Basic Concepts Interactive Survey* is informal and not meant in any way to replace a formalized diagnostic assessment tool.

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- _____ 1. What is above your nose? _____
- _____ 2. What is in your mouth? _____
- _____ 3. What is below your knee? _____
- _____ 4. What is in the middle of your body? _____
- _____ 5. What is on the left side of your head? _____
- _____ 6. What is on the right side of your head? _____
- _____ 7. Name a pair of body parts you have on your body. _____
- _____ 8. What is on the end of your fingers? _____
- _____ 9. What is on your head? _____
- _____ 10. What is above your eyes? _____
- _____ 11. What is above your foot? _____
- _____ 12. What is in the center of your leg? _____
- _____ 13. Do we have more fingers or more ears? _____
- _____ 14. What is farthest body part from your head? _____
- _____ 15. What is on the front of your face? _____
- _____ 16. What is behind your tummy? _____
- _____ 17. What is between your head and shoulders? _____
- _____ 18. Do you have fewer, the same, or more ears than fingers? _____
- _____ 19. What do you always do with your nose? _____
- _____ 20. What is one thing you never do with your nose? _____

Comments: _____