

Early childhood literacy and numeracy resource

Hokey Pokey

Links to the Early Years Learning Framework

Learning outcome 5: Children are confident learners	
Key component: Children develop a range of skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating	This is evident when children: • create and use representation to organise, record and communicate mathematical ideas and concepts • contribute constructively to mathematical discussions and arguments.
Key component: Children engage with a range of texts and gain meaning from these texts	This is evident when children: • take on roles of literacy and numeracy users in their play.

[The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia](#) CC BY 4.0 International

Learning focus

Position

Children learn about location and direction from everyday experiences, first by experimenting with ways to move their bodies, to navigate furniture and avoid falls. As they develop physical knowledge of being in a space child begin to see relationships between people and other objects or events. For example, a child may begin to make judgments, such as whether a toy car will fit into a small box or whether they need a larger box. As your child/children learn about location and direction it's important to introduce spatial language including:

Position: over, under, above, below, top, bottom, side, on, in, between, outside, inside, around, in front, behind, front, back, before, after, besides, next to, opposite, apart, middle, edge, corner.

Direction: left, right, up, down, forwards, backwards, sideways, across, along, through, close, far, near, to, from, towards, away from.

Comparison: wide, wider, widest, loud, louder, loudest, quiet, quieter, quietest, empty, full, half full, same, overflowing.

Movement: slide, roll, stretch, bend

Resources

Hokey Pokey (song)

You put your left foot in

You put your left foot out

You put your left foot in

And you shake it all about.

You do the hokey pokey

And you turn around

That's what it's all about (repeat using different body parts).

Engaging with the learning

Do the Hokey Pokey and invite the whole family to join in. You can help you child/children to differentiate left and right by writing the letter L on the back of their left hand. Encourage your child/children to think of a different body part for each verse (hand, arm, leg, bottom, head, etc.), or innovate on the song by changing some action words, such as in and out to up and down, or turn around to jump up and down.

Story video

The pear in the pear tree

[youtube.com/watch?v=R97y7AKHoUI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R97y7AKHoUI)

Text

Allen, P. 2000, The Pear in a pear tree, Puffin, Hawthorne, VIC.

Engaging with the text to support learning

Step 1. If you have this book at home, encourage your child/children to predict what the story is about from the cover. If not using the suggested video link in the resources box and watch the story together.

Step 2. Read/watch the story.

Step 3. Here are some questions to ask your child/children about the story.

1. What did John and Jane see up in the tree? (pear)
2. How did they try to get the pear? (holding Jane up, climbing a ladder)
3. How do you think the bird felt in the end?
4. Why did Jane land in the pond?

Taking the learning further

1. Design an obstacle course with your child/children. Encourage your child/children to describe how they move through each part of the obstacle course, for example under the table, over the chair, between the cushions, through the door. Invite your child/children to draw picture signs to place on each part of the obstacle course so others will know what to do.
2. Invite your child/children to try weaving. Gather materials such as strips of fabric, ribbon or lengths of plastic cut from grocery bags to weave. For the weaving frame try cardboard with slots cut in it, a plastic garden trellis, the spokes of a bike wheel, a laundry basket or a fence. Encourage your child/children to observe as you demonstrate how to weave the material, using language such as in, out, under, over and through, then invite them to have a go. As your child/children become confident with the process, they can try weaving in different directions or patterns, such as through every second hole.

More literacy and numeracy play ideas to try

1. Together with your child/children, draw the characters on some paper and/or gather together some props to retell the story of “The pear in the pear tree”. Involve your child/children in drawing, cutting out and decorating the paper shapes to make Jane, John, the bird, the pear tree, a pear and a ladder. The paper cut-outs will stick to a board or the fridge using blu-tac or they can be used on a flat surface such as a table. Place the story book nearby for your child/children to look at as they retell the story with the characters and props. Encourage them to innovate on the story to create a different adventure or a new ending.
2. Invite your child/children to build a tree house at the base of a tree. Together with your child/children, gather long sticks, palm fronds, or items from around the house, and choose a suitable tree (you can use chairs or a small table if you do not have a suitable tree in your yard). Support your child/children to plan and build their tree house, and solve problems as they arise. Use the language of location as you talk with your child/children about their treehouse, ‘I like how you leaned the big branches against the tree trunk and put the palm fronds over them to make the walls. Can you fit inside? Look – you can crawl right through!’
3. Encourage your child/children to be involved in taking out or putting away items in different locations. For example, invite your child/children to put away their clean clothes, using the language of location, “Can you please put your pyjamas in the middle drawer?’ Encourage your child to problem solve when it comes to accessing different locations, ‘Hmm, the cups are a bit high, aren’t they? What could you do to reach them? Great idea – I will hold the stool while you stand on it. Can you reach the cups now?’

Reproduced and made available for copying and communication by NSW Department of Education for educational purposes with permission of Queensland Government Department of Education.