

## OPPOSITES

Understanding language is important in order for a child to communicate successfully with others. In order for a child to use words and concepts in their vocabulary they first need to understand them. Understanding the concept of opposites is important as it helps a child to learn how to compare two different things and to develop a more concrete understanding of a specific concept (e.g. hard vs soft). Learning opposites also improves a child's ability to describe things.

Use the pictures attached to teach a child about opposites. Below are some activity ideas to help teach these concepts.

### Fishing Game

1. Cut out the pictures and laminate them so that the activity is durable.
2. Make a fishing rod out of a stick, string and a magnet (for the hook). Attach paper clips to the cards and place face up on the floor.
3. Put aside one word from each opposite pair.
4. Explain to the child that you are going to play a game to help them learn opposites.
5. Place 2 pictures on the floor in front of the child. Ask the child to use the magnetic fishing rod to catch the picture that is the opposite to one of the cards you have set aside (e.g. What is the opposite of 'hot?').
6. If the child selects an incorrect picture provide them with a model of the correct response (e.g. "Great try. The opposite of 'hot' is actually 'cold' because they both describe the temperature of something").
7. Once the child can consistently make an accurate selection from a choice of 2 pictures increase the number of pictures they need to choose from.

### Go Fish

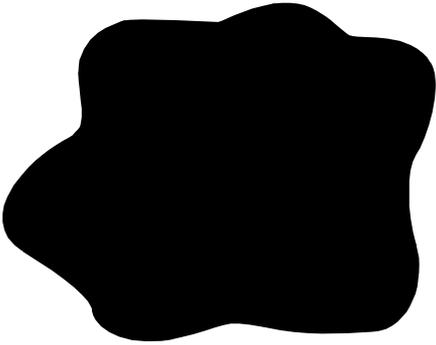
1. Cut out the pictures and laminate them so that the activity is durable.
2. Explain to the child you are going to play a card game to learn about opposites.
3. Shuffle the cards and deal 5 to each person. Try and make sure there are no matching opposites in the initial deal.
4. Place the rest of the cards in the middle of the table.
5. Take it in turns to ask the other person for a card that is the **opposite** to the one you have in your hand (e.g. "Do you have the opposite of *fat*?"). If the person has the opposite card they give it to the person asking. If they do not have the card they say 'Go Fish' and the person asking picks up a card from the pile in the middle of the table.
6. The winner is the person with the most pairs at the end.

## **Space Travel**

1. Cut out the pictures and laminate them so that the activity is durable.
2. Explain to the child you are going to play a game to learn about opposites.
3. Separate the opposite pairs and stick one of the sets around the room.
4. Sit the child in a chair in the middle room and tell the child you are going to pretend that the chair is a rocket ship and that they are going up into space. Count backwards from 10 and then blast the child into space.
5. Turn out the lights and give the child a torch. Shine the torch on one of the cards that you have kept aside. Ask the child to go hunting into space for the picture that is the opposite of the card you are holding.
6. If the child selects an incorrect picture provide them with a model of the correct response (e.g. "Great try. The opposite of 'hot' is actually 'cold' because they both describe the temperature of something. I wonder if you can find *cold*").
7. Once the child has found all of the matching opposites, get the child to sit back on the chair and tell them that it's time to go back to earth. Count backwards from 10 and then blast off. Turn the lights back on and finish the game.

# Opposites

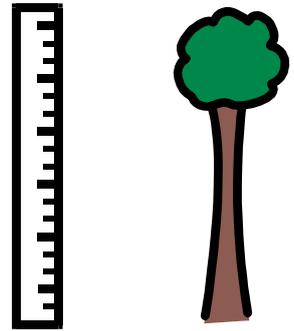
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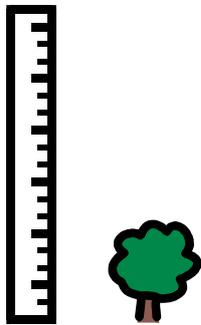
little



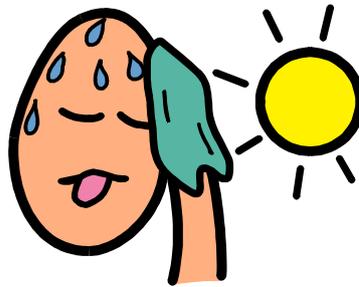
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short



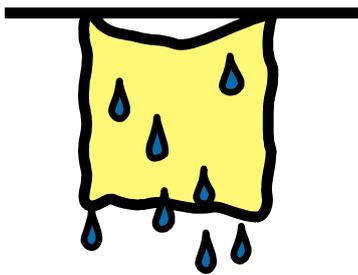
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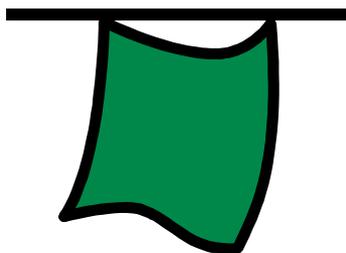
cold



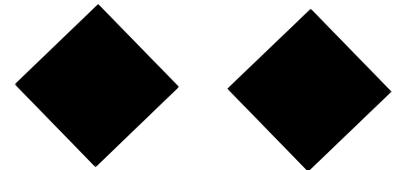
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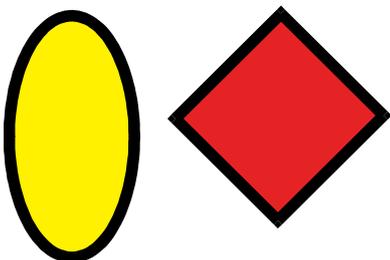
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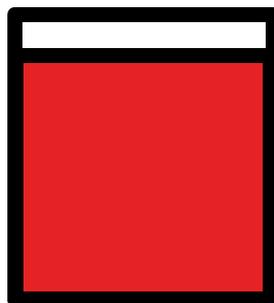
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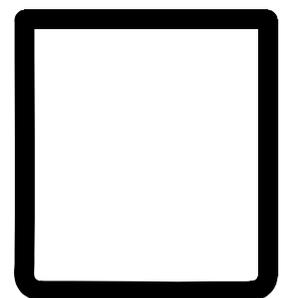
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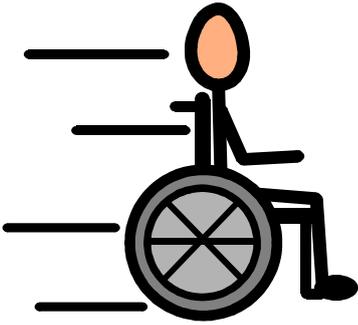
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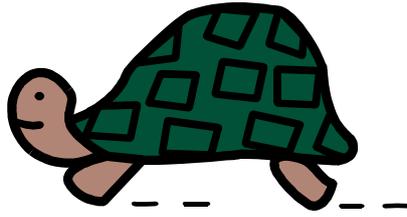
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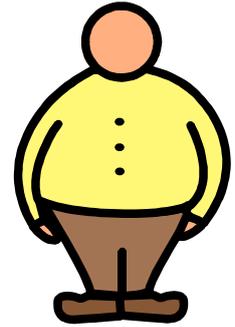
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slow



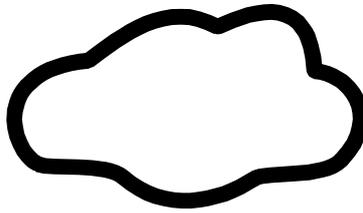
fat



thin



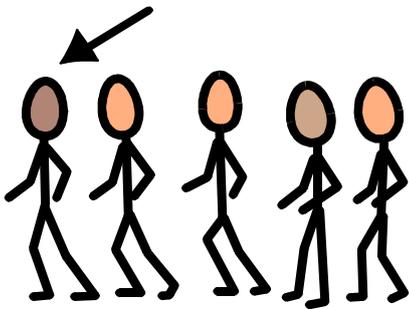
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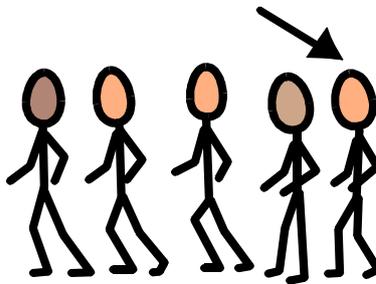
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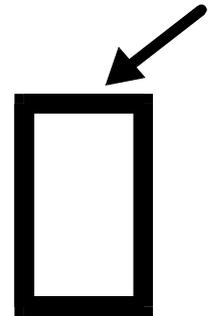
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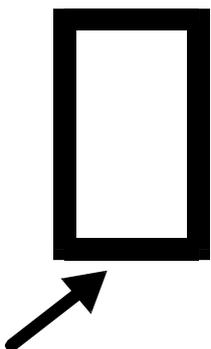
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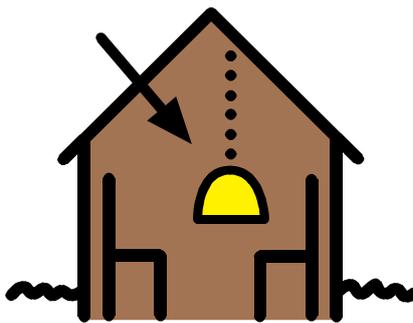
top



bottom



inside



outside

