

Barrier Games



Overview

Barrier games are a fun and interactive way of developing attention, concentration and listening skills; expressive and receptive language skills and social interaction skills. Barrier games also provide a multi-sensory way of teaching new concepts and can be linked to all curriculum subjects.

Barrier games can be adapted to suit all ages and abilities as the focus materials can be as complex or straight-forward as required. The child could even come up with their own ideas to extend the activity.

Barrier games require two identical sets of materials and a barrier such as a large book that will stand up. The barrier is placed between the two players (or two teams) so that each cannot see the others materials. The players then take turns to provide verbal instructions to those on the other side of the barrier. The instructions will depend on the materials being used. When completed, the barrier is removed and similarities and differences can be explored.

Examples of materials and activities

- Construction equipment (i.e. Lego, blocks, pegs and boards) – instructions are given how to build a model/create a sequence of blocks/pegs.
- Picture cards/real objects – description of the picture/object provided which does not explicitly name the picture/object.
- Colouring pictures and coloured pencils/felt-tips – instructions could include aspect of picture to be coloured and colour used.
- Maths materials (i.e. number square) – instructions could include add $2 + 2$ and colour the answer red.

Printable barrier games / resources can be downloaded from

http://www.talkingmatters.com.au/resources/downloads/cat_view/2-barrier-games

<http://dltk-kids.com/>