

Gravesham Early Years Specialist
Teaching & Learning Service



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Barrier Games

Barrier games are a fun and interactive way to practice speech, receptive and expressive communication skills, and social skills.



Barrier games require a minimum of two players.

Each player must have the same set of materials in front of them, and a barrier in-between them so they cannot see one another.

Each player takes turn giving a specific direction on how to arrange the materials in front of them. This is done based on the child's ability level, so depending on the child's individual skill, instructions may be simple or complex.

Absolutely **no visual cues** are given.

At the end of the game, the goal is for everyone's materials to be set up the same way.

You can use barrier games to teach many skills including expressive and receptive language, and social skills.

You can manipulate the game to work on your own specific goals.

Some examples of things you can work on include:

- Listening skills (receptive language understanding)
- Following directions
- Turn-taking
- Understanding propositions (in, out, under, over, next to, etc.)
- Expressive use of adjectives such as size, color, shape, etc.
- Expressive use of nouns, verbs, adverbs, etc.
- Ability to follow multi-step directives, and to give multi-step directives
- Ability to ask questions/clarification of directions

Barrier games are a great way to get children talking and help them to understand what information they need to include so you understand. Even better you can use your own toys to play! Here are some links to ideas using Duplo/Lego and Mr Potato Head!

<https://youtu.be/Vxcb8siSDZA>

<https://youtu.be/n6vXqfdFAEM>

