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## **Basic Concepts: A Foundation for Learning**

### **What are basic concepts?**

Basic concepts are words that children need to know to participate in everyday activities as well as to engage in conversation with both peers and adults. As early as kindergarten and first grade, children can be required to understand many of these concepts to participate in the simplest of routines. Example – They may need to **first** put their lunch money in the **red** bowl and **next**, hang their coat **on** the **lower** hook, etc. Understanding these concepts directly impacts a child's performance in school especially when learning to read, write and do math.

### **Examples of basic concepts**

- Colors
- Directions (through, around, etc.)
- Quantities (few, many, etc.)
- Sequences
- Size and Shapes
- Emotional States
- Textures
- Spatial Relationships

### **How can I help?**

1. Model descriptive words (e.g. textures, colors, etc.)
2. Expand descriptive words (e.g. big/huge/gigantic, etc.)
3. Use language to describe where things are in a room (e.g. below, behind, above, etc.)
4. Use wh – questions
5. Use these words EVERYDAY!