

**Top Tip from our Speech and Language Therapy partners:**

**Being face to face with your child helps them develop their interaction**

**and communication skills.**  Keep your instructions simple. Wait for your child to respond,

prompt with gestures if needed.

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| **Make this simpler...*** Use hot and cold to describe if they are close or far away from the hiding place.
 | **Make this more challenging...*** Introduce more characters to hide.
* Introduce postional langauge in your instructions ‘under, over, beside, next to, infront of, inside’. You can also introduce ‘left’ and ‘right’, ‘forward’ ‘backwords’.
* Let your child hide the toy and you have to find it.
* Draw a map to find the hidding place.
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**“The fun is in the journey, not the end result!”**

**How this benefits your child:**

Playing hide and seek will develop your child’s observation skills and ability to follow and carry out a simple instructions. They will develop their working memory by following directions and instructions. The ability to wait is needed to listen to the clues, this supports the development of ‘inhibitory control’, another aspect of executive function. Your child will develop their understanding of language to interpret what is being said and use it to find the character. They will also feel a sense of achievement when finding the character.

**The basic idea:** Find the hidden character - Use one of your child’s favourite characters and hide it around the house and outdoors. Your child needs to close their eyes while the character is hidden, then follow the instructions and clues you give to find the hiding place.

**Tips to support your child:** Use your child’s favourite character toy to make the experience exciting and to encourage your child to take part. To build your child’s confidence begin the game by hiding the toy in an obvious place so that it is easily found. Use simple instructions to make the game achievable and fun. Tell your child which room the toy is hidden in or you can be more specific by stating the area. Keep clues simple and direct to encourage children to use problem solving and observation skills. If your child is able to follow simple direction and instructions you can then build upon your instructions to make them more challenging.

This is best:

Indoors or Outdoors

Early Years Home Learning

Executive Function
**Character Hide and Seek**

**Materials:**

You may need:

* You child’s favourite or chosen toys
* Markers and paper to draw a map