

# Talking Matters

[www.talkingmatters.com.au](http://www.talkingmatters.com.au) Ph: 8255 7137  
Helping your child to reach their potential



## Barrier Games

Barrier games are a fun way to develop many communication skills including: listening skills, oral language, social language, clear talking, understanding and using concepts. They are great for extending the amount of information your child can understand or express within a sentence.

Barrier games require a listener and a speaker, two identical sets of materials and a barrier such as a large book. Materials can include blocks, Lego, miniature objects, animals and figures, sticker sets, picture cards, coloured pencils and paper, real objects, maths or craft materials, pictures from clip art or catalogues. Your speech pathologist can supply you with picture sets to use.



### Using the picture sets:

1. Each player has one background sheet and one set of cut up small pictures. Sit facing each other. Lay out each set of pictures in front of each player. Check that the child knows the names of all the small pictures.
2. Explain to the child you are going to play a game to see that you are good listeners and talkers. Explain that you will make a picture and you want your child to make their picture look the same as yours. Stand up the barrier and explain that this is so that the child cannot see what you are doing and needs to listen carefully.
3. Place your small pictures on the background and give the child clear instructions about how to put their pictures in the same position. Make sure you give your child enough time to respond before giving the next instruction.
4. When you have placed all the pictures on the background take the barrier away and talk to your child about the pictures that are placed correctly. Explain that this means they have listened carefully. Fix any pictures that are not placed correctly.
5. Play the game again and this time, tell your child that it is their turn to talk. Explain that you will listen carefully and make your pictures look the same as theirs. Put the barrier up again and ask the child to tell you where to put the pictures. If your child's instructions are not clear, you may need to cue them such as if your child says "put the car there" you might say "I've got the car, but I'm not sure where to put it".
6. Take the barrier away, look at all the pictures that correct and tell your child how this means that they did a good job of talking and that you listened carefully. Talk about any pictures that are in the incorrect position. Model the correct instruction such as "oh, I needed to put the cat under the tree".



Once your child understands how to play barrier games, you can make your own games. You can gradually games more difficult by increasing the length and complexity of the instructions or the number of items. You can also introduce concepts of space (such as: in, on, under, next to, above and below), colour and size.



Talking Matters Ph 8255 7137

[www.talkingmatters.com.au](http://www.talkingmatters.com.au)

Talking Matters





Talking Matters Ph 8255 7137 [www.talkingmatters.com.au](http://www.talkingmatters.com.au)

Talking Matters



# Camping & Fun Park Barrier Games

Talking Matters



band



plumber



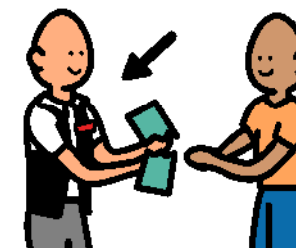
child



wizard



ticket collector



gardener



work crew



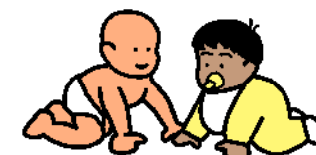
cleaners



car mechanic



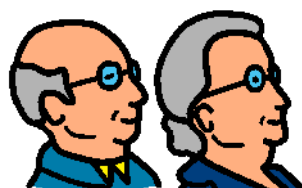
babies



child



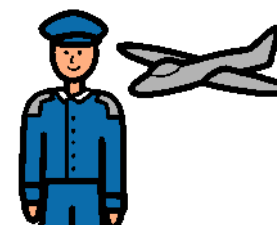
grandparents



hula dancer



pilot



women



Instructions on the purpose and how to use this game are explained on the attached information sheet.

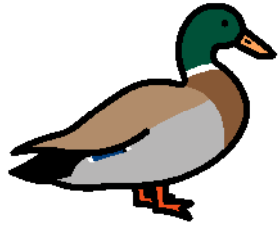
You may need to show your child what to do many times to help them be successful and remember to keep it fun for your child. Your interest and engagement are vital. Your speech pathologist can show you how to use this game with your child if you are unsure.

# Camping & Fun Park Barrier Games

Talking Matters



duck



gecko



mum



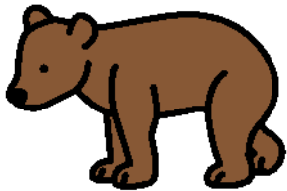
swagman



dad



bear



bird



ladybird



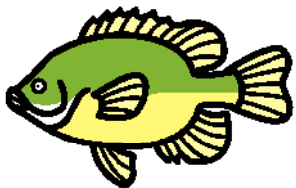
bird



dog



fish



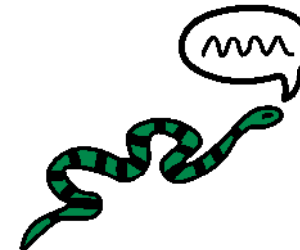
echidna



kangaroo



snake



black swan



Instructions on the purpose and how to use this game are explained on the attached information sheet.

You may need to show your child what to do many times to help them be successful and remember to keep it fun for your child. Your interest and engagement are vital.

Your speech pathologist can show you how to use this game with your child if you are unsure.