

Ready for School!

Swap Places

Language

Language is a child's key to communication and interaction with the world. Children are constantly developing their language and communication skills in every aspect of their learning. As these skills are crucial, it is important that they are effectively developed by creating a language-rich environment.

Language Readiness

To deem a child ready for school in terms of language development, they should be able to do some or all of the following:

- Understand and follow at least four consecutive instructions.
- Listen to others and respond appropriately by asking questions and communicating thoughts and ideas.
- Speak audibly and express their thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly.
- Show a basic command of English when speaking. Identify themselves by name and age, state factors in their life, and name family members.

Warm Up

Before playing Swap Places, ensure that students understand the vocabulary. You might need to review the words in advance.

To check understanding, say the word "mouse" aloud and invite students with the mouse card to stand up and come to the center. Ask them to show you their card and then ask them to sit down in a different place. You can ask the rest of the group to show their cards to ensure that no students was left behind.

How to Play?

- Print the cards and copy as many sets as you may need. Paste or draw images in the empty cards to add items according to your class needs.
- The class sits in circle so you can see everyone.
- Give a card to each student. You should repeat each card two or three times depending on your class size. You can go one by one and say each word aloud. You can also ask students to repeat after you. This will improve language awareness.

- Explain to students that they have to stand up and swap places when they hear they object that appears in their card.
- Call out and play with all the objects you have used. For a more challenging practice, sit down in a student's place (or remove a chair) when students are changing places so one child is left without a seat. Explain to students that they will call out a new object to get a new seat.

When a child struggles to follow instructions...

If your students are struggling to understand the spoken words, raise the card to bring visual support when saying the object. It is important to have an extra set of cards prepared in advance for this. You can try showing cards for a few rounds and then try with spoken words only.