

## ***Developing Object Permanence***

Object permanence is when a child understands an object still exists even though it may be out of sight - an important step toward learning to label objects. When children understand object permanence, they recognize that a label not only is the name of an object, but it represents the object when the object is not present.

Ideas to foster the development of object permanence:

- Show your child a toy. Hide the toy as your child watches. Say "where is the \_\_\_\_?" Find the toy as the child watches and say "There's the \_\_\_\_." In the beginning a toy that makes sound may help because while hidden the sound can present a clue for location and existence.
- Put your hands in front of your child's face. Say "Where's \_\_\_\_?" Move your hands away and say "There's \_\_\_\_." This is like peek-a-boo.
- Play peek-a-boo saying "Where's \_\_\_\_?" then "There's \_\_\_\_."
- Hold a blanket or cloth so that it partially covers your face. Say "Where's Daddy? Here he is." Be animated!
- Hide under a blanket so that it is obvious you are there. From underneath say, "Where's Mommy?" Uncover the blanket and say "Here I am. Here's Mommy."
- Hide a large object under a smaller cloth so the shape is obvious. Say "Where's the \_\_\_\_?" Have the child pull away the cloth and say "There it is. There's the \_\_\_\_."
- Place small objects, such as coins, inside a container. Say, "Where's the money?" Rattle the coins inside the container and put it down for the child to open. Say "There's the money."
- Hide an object under an overturned pail and say "Where's the \_\_\_\_?" Have the child find the object and say "There's the \_\_\_\_."
- Hide a small object in your hand and say, "Where's the \_\_\_\_?" Have the child open your hand to find the object and say "There's the \_\_\_\_."
- Walk around your home finding familiar objects where they usually reside. For example say, "Where's Sammy's juice? Oh, there it is. In the refrigerator."

***HAVE FUN!***

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