Opposite Exercises

Easy activity that cost nothing for parents to teach their child! Do these action exercises one at a time, while saying the opposite words to your child. Encourage your child to do the exercise motion with you, and say the word while doing.

Milestones to meet:

The child can follow visual and verbal directions. The child can mimic the actions of an adult. The child learns the concept of opposites. The child builds physical motor development.

Opposite Movements:

Up and Down

- Stand with your hands up in the air
- Bend over and touch your feet on the ground

Open and Close

- Open your hands really wide
- Close your hands into a fist

Happy and Sad

- Make a happy, smile face
- Make a sad, frown face



Front and Back

- Point as you face the front
- Now turn around and face the back

Big and Small

- Put arms out wide to make a large gesture
- Use fingers to make a small gesture

Yes and No

- Shake your head up and down, smiling
- Shake your head side to side, frowning

Sit and Stand

- Sit down on the floor
- Stand up straight and tall

Tall and Short

- Reach one hand up high
- Put your hand down to show short

Right and Left

- Wave your right hand and kick out your right foot
- Wave your left hand and kick out your left foot



Jump and Stand

- Jump up and down
- Stand still

Walk and Run

- Walk in place
- Jog in place

Clap and Stomp

- Clap your hands
- Stomp your feet

Good and Bad

- Put your thumb up shake your head yes!
- Put your thumb down shake your head no!

In and Out

- Jump in towards the circle (forward)
- Jump back out of the circle (backwards)

You can continue exercise motions as many times in a row, or repeat whole list, over and over as much as you want. Keep teaching and doing until your child no longer shows any interest. This is a great way to learn the concept of opposites, keep your child entertained and active, while still learning the valuable concept of what it means to follow directions and listen!

