

Two-Step Directions

Take the papers out of the box, and then you can use it as a picnic table.

Offer your child directions that ask for two or more actions.

Two-step directions give your child practice in understanding and completing all the parts of a task.





Why this is important

Your child can learn to follow clear, multi-step directions when you give her opportunities to practice. Following directions is very important in school, and people follow verbal and written directions throughout their lives. Participation in most shared activities involves giving or following directions.

What you do

- Use this game frequently and over a long period of time (a year or more) to give your child an opportunity to practice following directions in many situations.
- Make the game relaxed and use a friendly tone of voice so that your child feels encouraged to listen to you. Begin with directions that ask for two actions: *Please find your boots and put them in the closet.*
- Create directions to lead her to a surprise: *Look in the grocery bag, and then take what you find to the table for our snack.*
- Keep your directions simple with two actions at first. As she confidently completes the tasks, add more directions until there are three or four steps.
- Remember to thank her for finishing the task, if appropriate. *Thanks! You did exactly what I asked.* Offer encouragement for a job well done. *You looked in the bag and put our surprise snack on the table! Now we can eat our yummy graham crackers.*

Another idea

Use school words, such as *crayons, scissors, books, tables, and chairs*, to help your child prepare for hearing and following directions in the classroom. A few examples of directions she may hear in school are: *Put some newspaper down before you begin to paint. When you get up, push your chair in, please. Take a book from the shelf and then go and sit where we can read a story.*

Let's read together!

Pete's A Pizza
by William Steig