

How to Practice BEFORE & AFTER Concepts

Materials needed: post-it notes or paper cut-outs with “before”, “after”, “1”, and “2”

1) Before in the Middle



- Lay the “1”, “before”, and “2” in front of the child in the above order.
- Give your child two directions to follow with “before” in the middle.
Example: “Clap your hands **before** you jump in the air.”
- Point to the number of the direction (indicating which order they do them in) as you say the instruction.
Example “Clap your hands [point to 1] **before** [point to before] you jump in the air [point to 2].”
- Ask your child to perform the actions.
- Repeat step c) if your child performs it incorrectly, but add explanation.
Example: “When **before** is in the middle [point to before], clap your hands is first [point to 1] and jump in the air is second [point to 2].”

2) Before in the Front



- Lay the “before”, “2”, and “1” in front of the child in the above order.
- Give your child two directions to follow with “before” in the beginning.
Example: “**Before** you clap your hands, jump in the air.”
- Point to the number of the direction (indicating which order they do them in) as you say the instruction.
Example: “**Before** [point to before] you clap your hands [point to 2], jump in the air [point to 1].”
- Ask your child to perform the actions.
- Repeat step c) if your child performs it incorrectly, but add explanation.
Example: “When **before** is in the front [point to before], jump in the air is first [point to 1] and clap your hands is second [point to 2].”

3) After in the Front



- Lay the “after”, “1”, and “2” in front of the child in the above order.
- Give your child two directions to follow with “after” in the beginning.
Example: “**After** you clap your hands, jump in the air.”
- Point to the number of the direction (indicating which order they do them in) as you say the instruction.
Example: “**After** [point to after] you clap your hands [point to 1], jump in the air [point to 2].”
- Ask your child to perform the actions.
- Repeat step c) if your child performs it incorrectly, but add explanation.
Example: “When **after** is in the front [point to after], clap your hands is first [point to 1] and jump in the air is second [point to 2].”

4) After in the middle



- Lay the “2”, “after”, and “1” in front of the child in the above order.
- Give them two directions to follow with “after” in the middle.
Example: “Clap your hands **after** you jump in the air.”
- Point to the number of the direction (indicating which order they do them in) as you say the instruction.
Example: “Clap your hands [point to 2] **after** [point to after] you jump in the air [point to 1].”
- Ask your child to perform the actions.
- Repeat step c) if your child performs it incorrectly, but add explanation.
Example: “When **after** is in the middle [point to after], jump in the air is first [point to 1] and clap your hands is second [point to 2].”

Note: If your child continues to have difficulty, try adding visual reminders (e.g., a picture or a written word) of the actions underneath the numbers to help them remember what they need to do first and second.