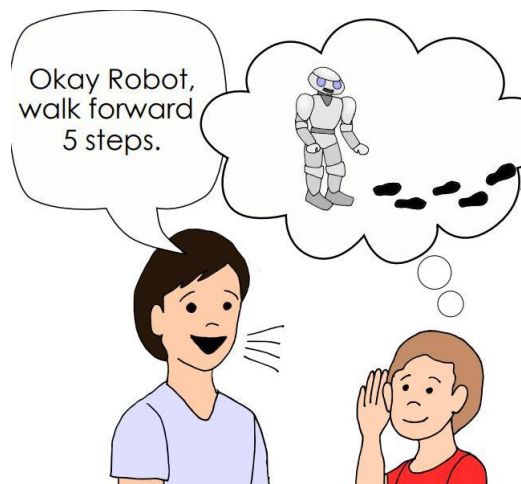


Fun Ways to Practice Following Directions at Home



Remember to use the “Tips for helping your child follow directions successfully” when doing these activities with your child. Give the directions at a level that works for your child. Some children will need single-step directions, e.g., “*Go get your shoes*”, while others are ready for more steps, e.g., “*Go get your shoes and put them by the table.*” Be as silly as you like, and remember to have fun!

1. Play Simon Says

Instead of saying, “*Simon says ‘Do this,’*”, give a direction, such as “*Simon says ‘Clap your hands.’*”

2. Have a treasure hunt

Hide small items throughout your house. Give your child directions telling them where to find them. Some children will need to look for one item at a time, others may be able to remember multiples locations at once.

3. Have a scavenger hunt

Ask your child to find or bring you things, e.g., *one of Dad’s socks*, or *five sticks*. You can also give clues about where the items might be, e.g., “*See if you can find an ant under that tree.*”

4. Play “Robot Controller”

One person is a robot who cannot move without being instructed. The other tells them exactly what to do. For example, “*Walk forward five steps.*” For more of a challenge, try giving instructions to complete a more complex task such as making a sandwich for lunch!

5. Play a barrier game

Gather a stack of blocks or Lego pieces. Sit on opposite sides of a table with your child. Put a barrier in the middle, such as an upright open book or a cereal box. Take turns giving each other directions as you both work on building the same thing, without looking at what the other person is doing. For example, you might say “*Put a green block on top of a red block*”. Afterwards, remove the barrier, and check to see how well you did! This activity can also be done while drawing a picture. For example, you might say, “*Draw a purple tree in the bottom left corner of the page*”.