

# Enterprise Elementary Reading Report

## What Are Basic Concepts?

Basic concepts are the foundation of a child's education. They are words that a child needs to understand in order to perform everyday tasks like following directions, participating in classroom routines, and engaging in conversation. A child needs to know basic concepts in order to be successful in reading, writing, and math. In fact, knowledge of basic concepts directly relates to a child's performance in school.

### What kinds of words are basic concepts?

- △ Basic colors--red, blue, green . . .
- △ Directions--through, around . . .
- △ Quantities--few, many, more, less . . .
- △ Sequences--first, next, last . . .
- △ Shapes--round, square . . .
- △ Size--big, little . . .
- △ Social/Emotional States--happy, sad . . .
- △ Characteristics--old, new . . .
- △ Textures--rough, smooth . . .
- △ Time--late, early . . .
- △ Spatial Relationship & Positions--front, behind, top, bottom . . .

### What are the 20 most important basic concept PAIRS for a child to know to be successful in preschool and kindergarten?

- |                               |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| △ In / Out                    | △ Fast / Slow      |
| △ Before / After              | △ Big / Little     |
| △ Up / Down                   | △ Hard / Soft      |
| △ Happy / Sad                 | △ New / Old        |
| △ On / Off                    | △ Empty / Full     |
| △ Top / Bottom                | △ First / Last     |
| △ Behind / In Front           | △ Outside / Inside |
| △ Open / Closed               | △ Asleep / Awake   |
| △ One / Many                  | △ Hot / Cold       |
| △ Loud / Soft (Noisy / Quiet) |                    |
| △ High / Low                  |                    |

## How Frequent are basic concepts?

Think of a first grade classroom and a typical daily morning routine a child follows. A child in this classroom needs to understand at least 17 early basic concepts to successfully participate in the first 5 minutes of this day.

*The bells rings and the children file into the classroom as the teacher announces, "First, put your lunch money in the red bowl on the small table next to my desk. If you brought your lunch, put it into the bin by the door. Next, hang your coat on the lower hook and your backpack on the top hook. Then, have a seat at your desk, get out your writing folder, and wait quietly for me to come around and check it."*

### Helping children learn basic concepts:

- △ Model descriptive words by talking to your child about everything you see and hear in your environment.
- △ Expand the words you use when you describe things. For example, instead of using the word "big," say "huge" or "gigantic."
- △ When talking about spatial relationships and positions, try not to point or gesture. Use more descriptive words such as below, behind, on top of, in front of, above.
- △ Ask who, what, where, why, when questions.

### Conclusion:

Basic concepts are the building blocks a child needs to have success in school and in everyday life. They are common, but very important, words that you can teach your child through conversation, reading, and singing. Use these words often and every day.

*(Taken from Super Duper Handy Handout #161, written by Susie Loraine, M.A. CC-SLP; cc 2008)*