



# Chat Challenge with ... Maps

Each week we will share a new activity for you. These are fun activities, using things already in your home, which will support speech, language and communication.

You can see demonstrations of them: <https://youtu.be/Crg7TxfDFLI>

## To do this activity you will need:

For younger children:

- a car mat, or homemade one (see activity below)
- toy vehicles and people

For older children:

- maps or plans from zoo trips etc or a car atlas or street map

## This chat challenge has been designed to focus on:

- vocabular
- putting words together
- following instructions
- understanding and using directional vocabulary
- being able to explain things
- use what they can see to help with talking

## For younger children:

- Follow the child's lead and play with them using their ideas.
- Comment lots and try not to ask too many questions

## For older children

- Use their interests to decide what kind of map to use
- Encourage them to use as many words as possible
- After the activity talk about what was easy or hard.

### Address

4 Stable Yard  
Middlewood Green  
Stowmarket  
Suffolk IP14 5HG

[www.communicate-therapy.co.uk](http://www.communicate-therapy.co.uk)

Twitter: @COMMUNICATEslts  
FB: COMMUNICATEspeechlanguagetherapy  
IG: communicate\_slts

### Company

COMMUNICATE & CARE LTD.  
(trading as Communicate)  
08196903



## For Pre-School Children:

If you don't have a car mat, try making one out of paper or cardboard: <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/523754631638801789/>. Include places to visit like the park, shops, school etc.

You could also use chalk outside on a patio or road.

1. Model language while pushing the cars, dropping people off at different places. Focus on just a few words and say them lots of times. This could be:
  - naming the objects they're using
  - action words like 'driving, pushing'
  - concept words like 'fast, slow, big'
  - If they give you one word, send it back with an extra one. 'car' becomes 'drive car'
2. Try giving some instructions such as 'put the tractor in the park' or 'put the man in the shop'. If they can do this, use vehicles of different sizes and say 'give me the big car'
3. If they follow instructions easily, get them to tell you what to do!

## For children in their first years at school:

1. Use the car mat to practice position words like 'on, under, behind, in front, above'. At first, hand your child a person and say 'put it behind the car'.
  - If they can do this, make it longer 'put the big car in front of the shop'. The sillier the instructions can be, the more fun you will have.
2. Make up a story about your scene. Take it turns to add to the story and act it out at the same time.
  - To make it more fun, you start a sentence and your child can finish it off e.g. 'One day, Jack got in his car and.....' Take in turns to finish the sentence. Who will be silliest?

Look on the next page for activities for older children in primary and secondary school.

### Address

4 Stable Yard  
Middlewood Green  
Stowmarket  
Suffolk IP14 5HG

[www.communicate-therapy.co.uk](http://www.communicate-therapy.co.uk)

Twitter: @COMMUNICATEslts  
FB: COMMUNICATEspeechlanguagetherapy  
IG: communicate\_slts

### Company

COMMUNICATE & CARE LTD.  
(trading as Communicate)  
08196903

communicate

© COMMUNICATE & CARE LTD. 2020

## For older children in primary school:

Make a treasure mapping your home or garden. See <https://theimaginationtree.com/diy-pirate-map-and-treasure-hunt-games/> for some ideas. Take turns to mark where some 'treasure' is hidden and make up clues so that other players can find it.

1. Check if your child knows 'left' and 'right'. If not, use this as a time to teach them. To help them, you can make reminders with the arrow and word.
2. Take it in turns to tell each other how to get to different places e.g. 'start at the sofa, go straight across to the TV, look up'
3. If you have enough space and it is safe, try using a blindfold so that the person giving directions has to be very precise e.g. 'walk forward 2 steps, turn to the right, go forward one step...' etc.

There are lots of other ideas on our social media pages (see bottom banner), and another activity coming soon!

## For secondary school children:

1. Search the internet for plans or maps of favourite places to visit, or places they would like to visit e.g. <https://www.banhamzoo.co.uk/visit-the-zoo/plan-your-visit/zoo-map/>.
  - Use the map to talk about what can be seen there, what they might like best etc.
  - Plan a visit to this place, not forgetting to include how to get there, cost, what to take with you.
  - If possible, encourage them to explain their plans to a relative or friend.
2. Draw a map of your home or school. Talk together about your favourite parts, what could be made better, how it could be different.
3. Look at GoogleMaps of your street and local area.
  - Make a list of nearby places or street names on pieces of paper.
  - Take turns to choose one but don't tell the other person. Direct the other person on how to get there on the map. Did they reach the right place?

### Address

4 Stable Yard  
Middlewood Green  
Stowmarket  
Suffolk IP14 5HG

[www.communicate-therapy.co.uk](http://www.communicate-therapy.co.uk)

Twitter: @COMMUNICATEslts  
FB: COMMUNICATEspeechlanguagetherapy  
IG: communicate\_slts

### Company

COMMUNICATE & CARE LTD.  
(trading as Communicate)  
08196903

communicate