**Children's Speech and Language Therapy
Barrier Games**

What are barrier games

Barrier games help children practice following instructions in a fun way. Games can be played using pictures or toys. Having a barrier means your child has to listen very carefully because they cannot see any clues.
Your therapist will let you know;
- how long the instructions need to be
- what sort of words to use
- about the key word level your child is practising. You can see more information on Key words on our Toolkit and YouTube videos.

Who to use barrier games with

Barrier games can be used with younger children. You use a barrier game with:
- Toys
- Pictures
- Colouring

With older children and young people you can use:
- Pictures
- Colouring
- Lego

How to play a barrier game

Use anything as a barrier – a ring binder, a large book, or a box.
1. Sit opposite your child
2. Put your barrier in the middle.
3. You and your child need to have the same pictures or toys on each side of the barrier.
4. Say the instruction for your child to follow.
5. Follow the instruction at the same time. You won't be able to see each other's answers.
6. When you are both ready, bring up the barrier. You can see if your answers match.
7. If your child had difficulty understanding the instruction, they can see your different answer. You can show them the correct answer and help your child follow the instruction again.

When your child becomes confident, they can take in turns giving instructions for you to listen and follow.

Things to remember

Your child might try to peek and see what you did, this is ok. Encourage them to focus on their instructions. Let them know it is ok to make mistakes – we all do. You can prompt them to ask for the instructions to be repeated too.

See our Barrier Games video on our YouTube channel.