

Barrier Games

Barrier games have been around for many years and include games that require players to give and receive directions while being separated by some kind of barrier. A well-known barrier game is 'Battleships'.

Barrier games are a flexible teaching tool and can be easily adapted to suit a wide range of children with different ages and levels of ability

For children with speech and language difficulties, barrier games can:

- Provide a chance to use attention and listening skills
- Provide thinking time
- Help develop understanding of language
- Develop self help skills (e.g. asking for a repetition of an instruction)
- Provide visual information to support language
- Provide a structured opportunity to develop their use of language

How to play a barrier game...

1. Minimum two players
2. Sit opposite each other
3. Place a barrier between you
4. Discuss the game rules (you may want to design a 'barrier game rules' sheet and stick it on each side of the barrier)
5. Play the game following instructions provided
6. End the game by lifting the barrier and then reflecting on the game

Some activities to try....

- Building simple Lego constructions
- Making a pattern or sequence with shapes, beads, counters, compare bears, bricks etc
- Use a face template, make a sad/happy, give them curly/straight hair, glasses/hat/ear rings/scarf, use different colours for the same objects etc
- Make Playdough shapes using different colours and/or cutters
- Who are you? Game
- Black Sheep barrier games pack

