

Barrier games



What is a barrier game?

A barrier game is a game that involves putting some kind of physical barrier between two (or more) people, whilst trying to duplicate the other player's scene using verbal instructions. Think of the game battleship!

What are we targeting with barrier games?

- Following directions
- Requesting for clarification
- Requesting for help
- Giving instructions
- Turn taking
- Vocabulary

How to play barrier games?

1. A barrier is put between two or more people (your child and another person/player) so that neither player can see the other player's scene/space (you can use a file folder, a box, an easel, or similar for the barrier)
2. Each player has an identical set of materials and background scenes. This can include scenes provided by your Speech Therapist. You can also use paper and colouring pencils, objects/toys etc.
3. One player places an item or object onto their scene/space, giving specific and detailed verbal instructions to the other player about what object they are placing, where they are placing it, and how they are placing it. E.g. dog next to the tree.
4. The opposite player listens carefully and attempts to place the same object in the exact same place on their landscape or scene using only the verbal instructions that they were given (they are also allowed to ask questions for clarification/repetition).
5. Repeat steps 4 and 5 until all items are placed and used
6. Remove the barrier and compare the scenes of the players, checking to see how similar they look (the goal is to have them be as similar as possible)

Be creative and have fun! You can use objects/toys around the house (as long as you have identical sets). You can also use pictures, paper, pencils, colouring pages, Lego etc.