

# Giving Instructions Activity

## Objective:

- Student to practice giving directions clearly and correctly

## Directions:

- Your task is to give simple, specific instructions to a partner to accomplish some or all of the tasks below. There are a few rules you'll need to follow:
  1. You, the instruction giver, are not allowed to touch anything.
  2. You, the instruction giver, are not allowed to see what your partner is doing until after you have completed giving the instructions and vice versa, your partner should not be able to see you.
  3. Your partner must follow your instructions exactly; they are not allowed to do anything outside of exactly what you say.
  4. Your partner is allowed to ask you to repeat your instruction, but they are NOT allowed to ask clarification questions like "Do you want me to draw it above or below?" rather they should only ask questions like "Can you repeat your last instruction, I'm not sure I understood."
  5. Try each set of instructions multiple times and see if you can do better each time.
- Here are some of the tasks you can choose from (drawing a picture is a great one to start with):
  - 1.) Choose a simple object for your partner to draw like a toothbrush, a chair, a person, a tree. You can do this on paper or on [drawisland.com](http://drawisland.com)
  - 2.) Have your partner make some recipe such as a sandwich or cereal or something else that's not too complicated.
  - 3.) Have your partner make something out of Legos, such as a car or a little house or a ship or a tower
  - 4.) Have your partner start at one end of the house and give them instructions (without watching them!) to get to a different part of your house
  - 5.) Give instructions to your partner on how to get dressed for the day, to tie their shoes, brush their teeth, do their hair, etc.

## Parent Tips:

- It can be really fun to follow their directions in a funny way – always following their steps though. For example, when drawing a person, they give the instruction to draw a ball (as the head) and you draw a football or a pool ball. Be very literal in following the directions, do not assume something that they didn't actually communicate to you.
- There should be no visual interaction between instruction giver and the partner. Blindfolds work great as does placing the instruction giver in a different room

## Variations:

- Have the instruction giver write down the steps on a paper, then have the partner execute the instructions. This allows for easier edits of steps that do not work while keeping intact the steps that did work.