Opposites

Learning to organize ideas into abstract categories like “opposites” is an important step in the development of your child’s thinking. Reinforce this kind of conceptual thinking with the following activities.

Opposites Game

Choose an object in the room and point out one of its characteristics. For example, say, “This pillow is soft.” Have your child find an object that exhibits the opposite characteristic.

Light and Dark Collage

On a piece of paper, draw a line down the center. One side will be for light colors, the other for dark. Cut pieces of construction paper in dark and light colors. Discuss the colors with your child and help them determine what colors to glue to the “light” side and what colors to glue to the “dark” side.

Try this activity with other opposites themes:

- Happy and Sad: Draw, print, or cutout from a magazine pictures of happy and sad people or characters.
- Daytime and Nighttime: Draw, print, or cutout from a magazine images related to daytime (a sun, clouds, children playing, swimming) and nighttime (moon, stars, sleeping).

Books to Read

Here are some books you may want to read together:

- Big and Little by Steve Jenkins
- Big is Big (and little, little): Book of Contrasts by J. Patrick Lewis
- Black Cat, White Cat by Chuck Murphy
- Double Delight Opposites by Mary Novick
- Eric Carle’s Opposites by Eric Carle
- Go, Dog, Go by PD Eastman
- How Big is a Pig? by Clare Beaton
- How do Dinosaurs Go Up and Down by Jane Yolen and Mark Teague
- Opposites by Sandra Boynton
- Wet and Dry: An Animal Opposites Book by Lisa Bullard

Find Opposites

Find a version of Goldilocks and the Three Bears at the library or online. Read the book interactively together. Point out opposites as you read (big and small, hot and cold, hard and soft, big and tiny).