



# Columbus School for Girls

## *Spatial Vocabulary*

Using spatial language with children can help improve their spatial understanding. Research also suggests that increased use of spatial words by children from an early age improves their ability to solve spatial problems even years later. Spatial words help students better understand spatial relationships. Parents should use these words with children to help increase spatial vocabulary.

Big	Globe	Apart	Fragment	Round
Little	Cone	Between	Fraction	Curve
Small	Cube	Among	Some	Bump
Large	Cylinder	Middle	Much	Bent
Tiny	Pyramid	Center	Enough	Bend
Enormous	Under	North	Half	Wave
Huge	Beneath	South	Third	Lump
Gigantic	Below	East	Quarter	Arc
Teensy	Over	West	Fifth	Sector
Itsy-bitsy	Above	Across	Sixth	Straight
Itty-bitty	Up	Over	Seventh	Flat
Long	Down	Opposite	Eight	Angle
Short	Bottom	Reverse	Ninth	Corner
Tall	High	Backward	Tenth	Point
Wide	Low	Forward	None	Plane
Narrow	Column	Parallel	More	Surface
Thick	Vertical	Perpendicular	Less	Face
Thin	Left	Diagonal	Same	Circular
Skinny	Right	Location	Equal	Rectangular
Fat	In front	Position	Inch	Triangular
Deep	In back	Direction	Foot	Conical
Shallow	Ahead	Route	Mile	Spheric
Full	Behind	Path	Centimeter	Elliptical
Empty	Sideways	Place	Meter	Cylindrical
Circle	Row	Distance	Amount	Shaped
Oval	Horizontal	Upside down	Room	Axis
Ellipse	By	Right side up	Space	Symmetry
Semicircle	Near	Upright	Area (as in space)	Pattern
Triangle	Close	Turn	Here	Design
Square	Next to	Flip	There	Sequence
Rectangle	With	Rotate	Anywhere	Order
Diamond	Beside	Rotation	Somewhere	Next
Pentagon	Far	Whole	Nowhere	First
Hexagon	Away	All	Everywhere	Last
Octagon	Beyond	Part	Wherever	Before
Parallelogram	Past	Piece	Where	After
Quadrilateral	Against	Section	Side	Repeat
Rhombus	Together	Bit	Edge	Increase
Polygon	Separate	Segment	Border	Decrease
Sphere	Join	Portion	Line	

\*List of spatial vocabulary words derived from Cannon, J., Levine, S., & Huttenlocher, J. (2007). A system for analyzing children and caregivers' language about space in structured and unstructured contexts. National Science Foundation, Spatial Intelligence and Learning Center (SILC) technical report.  
<http://spatiallearning.org/index.php/testsainstruments>