

Information Carrying Words

Information Carrying Words (ICWs) are words that help you understand the meaning of a sentence. The more ICWs there are in a sentence the longer and more complicated the sentence tends to be.

For example, if you put an apple and a banana on the table, hold out your hand and say "Give me the apple" your child only needs to understand one word – 'apple'. This instruction has one ICW. 'Give' and 'me' are *not* ICWs in this sentence because you have used a gesture to help your child work out what to do with the apple.

If you then say to your child "Give the apple to daddy" your child has to understand two words in the sentence – they are making two choices: 1) whether to pick up the apple or banana and 2) whether to give the apple to mummy or daddy. This is therefore a two ICW instruction.

Example Instructions			
No. of ICWs	Equipment Needed	Instruction	Choices to be Made
1	Teddy and dolly	Where's <u>teddy</u> ?	1 choice: teddy or dolly.
	Teddy	Make teddy <u>jump</u> .	1 choice: make teddy jump, run, fly...
2	Teddy and dolly, sticker	Put the sticker on <u>teddy's nose</u> .	1 st choice: teddy or dolly. 2 nd choice: put sticker on nose, foot, ear...
	Big teddy, little teddy, apple, banana	Give the <u>apple</u> to the <u>big</u> teddy.	1 st choice: apple or banana 2 nd choice: big or little teddy
3	Red cup, blue cup, red plate, blue plate, big teddy, little teddy.	Give the <u>red cup</u> to the <u>little</u> teddy.	1 st choice: red or blue. 2 nd choice: cup or plate. 3 rd choice: big or little teddy.
	Big apple, little apple, big banana, little banana, box.	Put the <u>big apple</u> <u>on</u> the box.	1 st choice: big or little. 2 nd choice: apple or banana. 3 rd choice: in, on or under.
4	Big teddy, little teddy, big dolly, little dolly, red box, blue box.	Put the <u>little teddy</u> in the <u>red box</u> .	1 st choice: big or little. 2 nd choice: teddy or dolly. 3 rd choice: red box or blue box. 4 th choice: in, on or under.
	Red stickers, blue stickers, two people.	Put <u>two red</u> stickers on <u>mummy's nose</u> .	1 st choice: number of stickers. 2 nd choice: red or blue stickers. 3 rd choice: which person. 4 th choice: which body part.

- When working on ICWs start with what your child can already do and gradually increase the number of ICWs.
- You may need to show your child what to do several times before they understand the activity.