

Sequencing



Sequencing is the skill we use to break events down into simple steps and put those steps in order. We use sequencing skills to do things such as follow a recipe or tell someone about an event that happened to us.

To work on sequencing begin by making sure your child understands words such as *first*, *next* and *last*. Then you can start using these words to describe events.

Activities for Working on Sequencing

Easier activities are at the top of the list and harder ones towards the bottom of the list:

- Place objects in a line (e.g. cars, dinosaurs). Give instructions such as 'point to the *first* car' or 'put the red car *first* in the line'. Remember to practice with objects lined up vertically and horizontally.
- Colouring: Give instructions such as 'colour in the *first* ball in the line'.
- Simon Says: Give 2-3 instructions such as 'Simon Says clap your hand and then stamp your feet'. Then ask your child 'what did you do *first/last?*'.
- Photos: Find pictures online or take photos of your child carrying out an everyday activity (e.g. brushing their teeth). Ask your child to put the pictures in the correct order. Then talk about what they did *first/next/last*.
- Story: Support your child to put pictures from a story in the correct order. Then tell the story.

Tips for Working on Sequencing:

- Start with just 2 photos/pictures and gradually build up the number of items your child has to sequence.
- If your child makes a mistake show them what they should have done and explain why. For example, if sequencing pictures about eating an apple you could say 'this picture is *first* because no bites have been taken out of the apple...this picture is *second* because someone has taken a bite out of it'.
- Use everyday opportunities to practice sequencing. For example, ask your child who was the *first* person to get in the car or the *last* person to finish their dinner.