

Story Sequence

This activity helps your child to think about the order that things happen in a story. There's lots of opportunity to talk about what happens next, make predictions, and use and extend what they know about stories.

You will need:

A familiar story your child knows well (this can be a told story, or an actual book)

A few bits of paper

Something to draw with

Your child

1. Think of a story your child knows well. Or you could make up a simple story that has an obvious order of events, in any language you use at home. *Jamel was sleepy. He put on his pyjamas. He cleaned his teeth. He got into bed. Outside the moon was very bright. It was like a big light. But Jamel couldn't switch it off. He had to close the curtains! Now the moon was like a little light. Jamel went to sleep.*
2. You can do this next bit with your child. Think about the main things that happen in the story. Draw a picture of each main thing on a piece of paper. These can be very simple drawings. Depending on your child's stage of development, you could invite your child to draw the little pictures.
3. Mix the bits of paper up so that they are in a different order. Tell the story in that order. What does your child notice? How does it sound? Is it silly or funny? Can they change the story? How? Can they put it in the order that makes the most sense? Or the order they know from the story book?
4. Use lots of words from the familiar story, or lots of talk to go with your made-up one. Include words like beginning, middle, end, next, before, after, then. Let your child take the lead. Read it again – does it make sense now?

Earlier Stages of Development

When you are telling a story with your child, put things in a different order – Jamel put on his pyjamas and went for a walk. Or if you are reading from a book, skip a page – what does your child notice, what do they do?

Extension ideas

You could write some words from the story under each picture, and then follow the words as you tell the story with the pictures. Perhaps your child can act out a story as you tell it – muddle up parts of the sequence as they act it out and see what happens next!