



Encouraging Early sequencing

Sequencing is the skill that we use when we break down an event or activity into simple steps and put those steps in order.

Here are some ideas on how to help your child sequence in the here and now.

Why are sequencing skills important?

They help your child to talk about something so others can follow the story. They learn to understand how to carry out certain tasks that require the steps to be done in a specific order.

How to help

- Talk to your child about what you are doing/what is happening using words like 'first, next, then, last'.
- Model this lots and lots of times with different everyday routines (bath time, teatime), activities like craft or cooking and during a play activity or looking at pictures in a book together.
- Comment on what the child is doing as they are carrying out the activity.
- Give your child a turn at talking about what they are doing.
- Once your child is confident in practical situations move on to using pictures to sequence a story/event

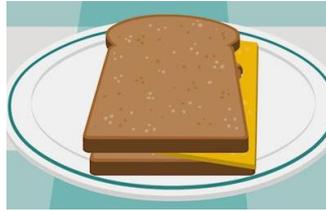
Everyday activities

We have lots of opportunities during the day to encourage children to think sequentially:



- In the car on the way home, ask, "Which way do I turn at the stop sign?"
- On the way home from school, "Tell me what happened at school today,"
- Immediately after eating your tea say, "Now, what will I do with these dirty dishes?"
- "Before you go outside in the cold, what do you need to do?"
- When making some juice, "what do I need to do next? pretend that you have forgotten how to do it or do silly things e.g. leave the lid on the juice bottle on while making a drink. Let your child tell you how to do the activity or tell you what you did wrong.
- Getting dressed, " put on your socks and....." (shoes) Practice by role playing getting dressed with their soft toys or dolls
- Unpacking the shopping together, "What is the last thing left in the shopping bag?"

- Make a snack together e.g. toast or a sandwich, comment on what you need and the steps as you do them.



- Singing

Singing along to familiar activities helps your child become familiar with the task, you can use their favourite nursery rhyme tune to support them

Example song for washing hands:



Twinkle twinkle....

'Twinkle, twinkle little star, Look how clean my
two hands are,

Soap and water, wash and scrub, Get those
germs off rub-a-dub,

Twinkle, twinkle little star, Look how clean my
two hands are'

In play activities with your child:

Construction play,

Describe what your child is building, "I see that you put a big block on the bottom, what's next?" When they have finished, "Wow you built a big tower, red brick then a blue.... "

Craft activities,

Encourage your child to answer questions. You might say, "Millie, what do you want first, the scissors or the glue stick?" Talk through what you are doing step by step.

Reading a story

Use familiar cues for the beginning, middle and end of the story so your child learns the routine for story telling, e.g. "once upon a time", "What's next?, turn the page, "the end!"

Make a story map,

Draw a back to front 'S' then draw simple pictures to represent key parts of the story. Use this when talking about a favourite book you have just read together.



Play sequences

Choose toys that involve sequencing parts to set it up or play e.g. making a train or car track, making pretend meals in the play kitchen. Encourage your child to tell you how to make it and what comes next.



Role play familiar community sequences

Catching the bus

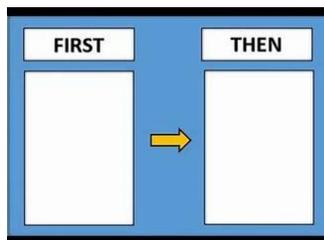
Going to the shop

Going to the hairdressers

Visual helpers

Some children need a visual support to think about what happens next :

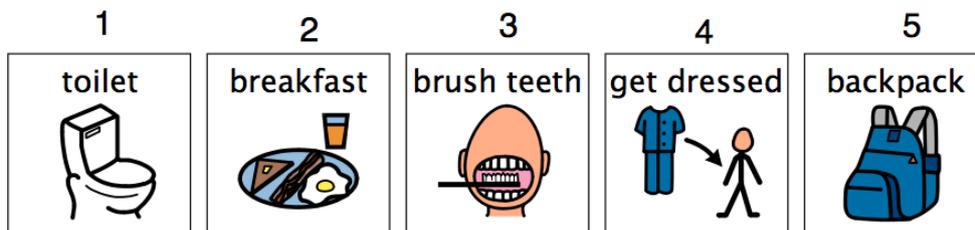
a 'First Then board'



Stick photos or pictures of each activity or task.

Your 'then' activity can be a reward (something your child enjoys)

A Visual Planner



Picture reminder

A visual for each step of the activity, you can use real photos

