

SEQUENCING IDEAS

The ability to see things in steps or in a sequence is a very important skill when one wants to learn how to do a story or narrative. For some children, they are unable to tell a story well because of sequencing difficulties. Their narratives sound all mixed up and there is a lack of cohesion. Story development will then be hampered because the foundation for the story is simply not in place.

HERE ARE SOME QUICK AND EASY TIPS FOR YOU TO WORK ON SEQUENCING WITH YOUR STUDENTS:

1. Sequencing cards

These types of picture cards may be available within your school. You may also be able to find free samples off of the internet. They usually come in 3, 4, 5, or 6 picture sequences and are typically suitable for individual or small group activities. “Errorless learning” means giving an answer before expecting it to be provided. Errorless learning creates a safe and supportive learning environment as children get to see you provide the answer before it is expected of them. Errorless learning is a really good strategy to get you started with sequencing.

How to do this:

- Take the cards and lay them out in the appropriate sequence on the table. Then describe them at a language level that will be suitable for the children you are teaching. Given your model, then have the child do the same.
- Lay the cards in random order and then put them in the correct order. Then retell the story sequence. Given your model, then have the children do the same.
- When talking about the picture sequences, encourage the children to go beyond the basic story line by asking questions (i.e. Who, What, When, Where, Why) or use thinking words (i.e. I wonder what it would be like to...)

2. Read stories

During the reading of a story or upon completion, help the children recall the sequence of events in order to reinforce comprehension. If you are able to photocopy the pages in the book, cut them out and have the children retell the story by putting the pictures in the appropriate sequence.

3. Newspaper and magazine articles

Read articles of interest with your children. If possible, cut out the pictures and have them put them in a sequence. Then retell the events in the article. To elaborate on the storyline, ask questions such as, “What do you think might have happened next?” or use thinking words (i.e. “I think that this article is interesting because.... What do you think?”) .

4. Sing a song

Make up a cute song or clapping routine to help your children remember the steps to follow in a sequence.

FOR EXAMPLE: Cleaning up your desk and standing in line by the door

(To a clapping routine)

Put my pencils in their box (clap, clap, clap)

Pick up things left on the floor (clap, clap, clap)

Leave my desktop nice and clean (clap, clap, clap)

Now I walk up to the door (clap, clap, snap)

FOR EXAMPLE: Cleaning up your bedroom

(To the tune of Old Mac Donald)

Time to clean up – here I go – to tidy up my room

First my laundry’s put away – Now it’s time for shoes

With toys in the bin and books on the shelf

Beds made here. Floors swept there. Clean up Clean up everywhere

Time to clean up – here I go – to tidy up my room

PLEASE NOTE: Songs and clapping routines can be a fantastic way to remember other very important concepts such as: the alphabet, days of the week, days in each month, months of the year, addresses, phone numbers, etc.

5. “Walk Out” a routine

Put floor steps down and have the children walk through the sequence as they describe each step of the routine. Again, provide models of this exercise so that your child can learn the skill easily and effortlessly!

6. Informal Discussion

In your daily chats, ask your children questions that require them to recall a sequence of events. Add questions such as, “What happened next?” “And then what happened?”, “What happened before that?”, “What happened first?”

7. Calendars And...

A calendar can provide many opportunities for a child to gain a sense of time and sequence. Just like we use calendars to keep track of our routines (i.e. swimming lessons, etc.) and special events (i.e. holidays, seasons, birthdays, family vacations), children can be taught to do the same.

8. Lists

We all keep our “To Do” lists. As we consistently use them, we model a lifelong strategy to meet the challenges of daily commitments for our children!

9. Journaling

Journaling is a great way for children to gain a sense of time and it is also a wonderful opportunity for them to express their thoughts, feelings and opinions based on their personal experiences!

10. Cartooning and scripting

Talk about the sequences that we have in common daily routine/activities such as buying a candy bar, getting ready for school, making a sandwich. You can draw cartoons (i.e. line drawings of stick people) of the sequences in the boxes below. Try to start with 3 sequence tasks and then build up from there. You can add a script (i.e. what the people might say) in speaking bubbles over the individuals speaking.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF....

Here are the steps that we do when we: EXAMPLE: Blow up a balloon

Pick up the balloon and blow into the end of it.	Keep blowing into the end until it is the right size.	Put a knot in the end to stop the air from escaping.
<i>Draw images in the spaces provided</i>		