

Sequencing

Sequencing is the ability to understand and organize the order that ideas, objects and events occur. Sequencing allows us to plan what we are going to do every day as well as to complete tasks such as brushing our teeth or making cookies. Sequencing is a major part of our everyday lives and therefore it is an important skill for children to develop.

Tips for practicing sequencing

- **Use key words such as first, next, then and last to help your child grasp the idea of order.**
- **Start off by working with common and simple tasks that involve sequencing:** *brushing your teeth, getting ready to play in the snow, playing and cleaning up your toys.*
- **In the beginning, you may have demonstrate the sequence of an event first before you ask your child to do it.**
- **As you complete a task, talk your child through the steps. Then have your child tell someone else the directions to complete that task.**

Ideas for practicing sequencing

- **Play the robot game-** An adult will act as a robot and the child will give the robot directions to follow. Decide on a task that the robot has to complete (making a sandwich, cleaning the bathroom, cleaning up the toy room). Have you child walk you through step by step how to complete the task. Even if the child gives an incomplete direction the robot must still do the action as this will help the child to realize that sequencing is very important in order to complete a task.
- **After reading a story, have your child sequence the events of a story-** If you are reading a story such as Goldilocks, ask your child questions about the sequence of events or cut out pictures from the story and have your child put them in order. Ask questions such as: *What did Goldilocks do first in the story? Did she eat porridge first or fall asleep in the bear's bed first?*
- **Photo sequencing-** Collect old family photos and lay them out. Have you child arrange them based on what happened first, next and last. For example: Lay out a picture of your child as a baby, their first trip and their first day of school. Put them out of order and have your child put this in order and explain to you the sequence.

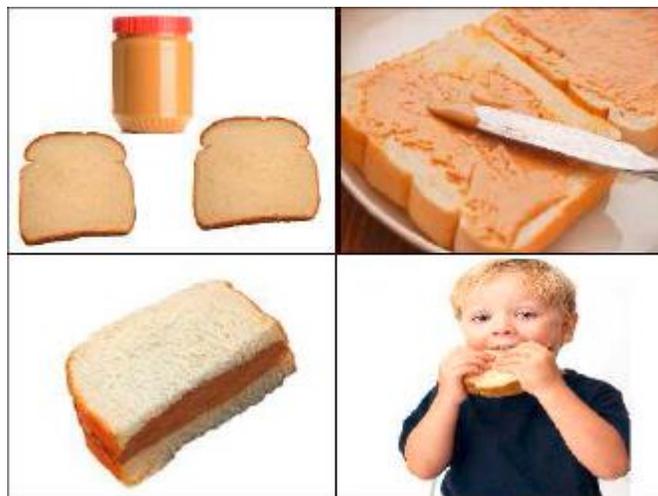


- **Cooking together-** Have your child help you prepare something to eat. Lay out the steps one by one. Talk about what you are doing as you go and why you have to do that step before the next one. After you are done, see if the child can repeat the steps.
- **Picture sequencing activity-** You can play this game using any pictures that have an obvious order.
 1. Present the pictures in order and tell a simple story about them.
 2. Present the picture out of order and ask your child to put the steps of the task in order. Talk through the routine together if your child is unfamiliar with it, or if they choose incorrectly

Making cookies:



Making a sandwich:



Playing:



Brushing teeth:

