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Children’s Speech & Language Therapy Service

**Helping Your Child to Sequence Language**

Information for parents/carers and settings of children who need support to work on sequencing and story telling

Lots of sequences happen throughout the day. Learning about sequencing can help your child’s understanding of cause and effect and the order in which things happen. It can also be used to help them explain and describe events and to tell stories.

**Top Tips**

1. Start with talking about familiar sequences that happen during the day e.g. their routine for the day, brushing their teeth, making a sandwich. Talk about what happens step by step
2. Use vocabulary related to sequencing e.g. first/next/last, before/after
3. Act out a familiar sequence using real objects and toys e.g. dressing a teddy, making a drink, making toast, and talk together about what you are doing

**Last** we eat it!

**First** we get the bread.

**Then** we wait for it to pop up!

**Next** we put it in the toaster.

**After that** we butter it.

1. Take photographs of the different steps of a familiar routine or activity e.g. going to the park, baking a cake, brushing your teeth. Then help your child put the photos in the right order, while you talk about what’s happening at each stage (or you may have been given some pictures to use for this activity)
2. After you have helped your child to sequence lots of familiar routines, they should be ready to sort the order themselves. Start with just 2-3 pictures showing a sequence and ask them to put them in the right order. You could use the photos you have taken. If your child gets stuck you can help them by saying, “what did we do first?”, “what happened next?” “Then what did we do?”
3. Once the pictures are in the right order, ask your child to look at them and tell you what is happening. Begin by asking them to describe one picture at a time. After lots of practice encourage them to tell you about the whole sequence to make a story
4. Think about very familiar stories that you read over and over, can your child tell you the story?
5. Use your home language for these activities, speaking more than one language does not cause children to have language difficulties

Schools can find further information and strategies in the Primary Toolkit, see the sections on Blank level 3 and narrative/story telling.



For more information visit [**www.alderhey.nhs.uk**](http://www.alderhey.nhs.uk)or talk to your Speech and Language Therapist.

**Alder Hey Community Speech and Language Therapy Department**

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[Speech and language therapy - Alder Hey Children's Hospital Trust](https://www.alderhey.nhs.uk/services/speech-and-language-therapy/)

 (click this link or type into search engine)

This leaflet only gives general information. You must always discuss the individual treatment of your child with the appropriate member of staff. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about your child’s treatment.

This information can be made available in other languages and formats if requested.

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