

Sequencing: building storytelling skills

Sequencing events is an important skill to be able to tell stories. Below are some tips to support your child to develop this skill.

1. Gather some photos

- Take some pictures of your child completing a familiar play activity or routine, such as going down the slide, getting dressed or brushing their teeth. Make sure you take a picture during each step of the activity.
- Alternatively, you could take pictures of key events in your child's favourite storybook (up to four pictures).



Example: Putting on socks and shoes. Source: Twinkl

2. Sequencing and retelling

- Encourage your child to place these pictures in the correct order and then describe what is happening in each picture, connecting each sentence with 'and' or 'then'.
- Give your child plenty of time to have a go before you step in. Children need lots of processing time, especially with new tasks.
- Your child might need some support to identify the correct order and retell the story. You can give prompts such as 'which one goes first?' or 'first you put on your... [socks]'
- To retell the story, if needed you can use prompts and encourage them to finish the sentence, e.g. adult: 'first you're climbing up the...' child: 'steps'. If your child is finding this task tricky, try reducing the number of photos to sequence.

3. Extension questions and discussion (for storybooks)

- What might happen next?
- How are they feeling?
- What are they thinking or saying?
- What else could they do instead?
- What did they do first? What did they do before x?
- What did they do after x?

These questions can be adapted for your own photos too.