

My Day

Targeted skill

It can be difficult for young children to understand the concept of the passage of time. Noticing that events happen “first, second, and third” is the first step to mastering the concept.

Materials

- ◆ 3 pieces of paper of the same size
- ◆ crayons

What to do

On the first piece of paper, ask your child to draw pictures of the foods he or she ate at breakfast. On the next piece, draw foods from lunch, and on the third, foods from dinner. Turn the papers facedown and mix them up. Ask your child to select each one and describe it. He or she might say, “This picture shows what I ate for breakfast.” Then ask your child to arrange the pictures in order. Encourage him or her to use the words *first*, *second*, and *third* as he or she arranges the pictures.

Or help your child sketch several events that occurred during a particular day. They do not have to be special events, just the daily routine of folding clothes, watching cartoons, or picking up groceries is okay. Then place these events in the order in which they occurred. Using the terms *first*, *second*, *third*, and so on is important.

Extending the activity

- ✦ Work with your child to draw pictures that represent individual years in his or her life. For example, for the first year the drawing could have a sketch of a baby, a bottle, and a favorite toy. For the second year, it could have a sketch of a particular achievement or family event. Then help your child arrange these drawings in order to represent his or her life. Be sure to encourage your child to use the mathematical terms of *first*, *second*, *third*, *fourth*, and so on.
- ✦ During a long weekend or family vacation, help your child draw a sketch of each day's events. Then help him or her arrange them in order. Staple the pages together (include a title page and end page) to make a journal of the event.

What your child is practicing

Using the terms *first*, *second*, *third*, *fourth*, and so on helps your child understand the ordinal numbers.