

Sequencing Events

Targeted skill

Young children are expected to use prior knowledge to make sense of texts. This requires being able to predict what comes before and after a given event. Activities such as this one help them learn to place events in order.

Materials

- ◆ index cards
- ◆ crayons, felt-tip markers, pencils

What to do

This activity involves drawing pictures of events on index cards, mixing the cards up, and reorganizing them in the order that they occurred. First, help your child draw a sequence of events on several index cards. You might ask him or her to record the events of a particular day, a special occasion (like a birthday party, family picnic, or other such event), or a family vacation. Then turn the cards facedown and mix them up. Turn the cards faceup and ask your child to find the first event that occurred. He or she places that event to the left of the playing area. Then he or she continues to pick the events in the order they occurred, placing them in the correct order.

Be sure to discuss the events as your child is arranging them. Comments like, “Yes, the kite is still on the ground in this picture so it goes before the one where the kite is flying,” help your child understand the relationship between events.