



What Can A Parent Do To Promote Thinking?

"Children grow into the intellectual life around them."

Lev Vygotsky

The skill of **Sequencing** means: Putting the events of a story in the order in which they occurred.

"Teaching sequencing to early learners is important because logical order of thinking is fundamental to reading and everyday life," says Brenda Strickland, author of Year Round Preschool Reading.

Ideas and tips for parents for the skill of sequencing:

(Children who are independent writers can do the below activities with less support.)

- Practice Predicting. When reading a story for the first time, ask your child what he thinks will happen next. For example, in "The Gingerbread Man", what does he think will happen after the gingerbread man gets on the fox's back? If his guess was not correct, you can use this opportunity to have him make up his own version of the story and see how it might end differently. When you have read a story several times, stop and ask if your child knows what is going to happen on the next page.
- Create Sequence Cards. After you have finished reading the story, help your child make sequencing cards for the story. On several pieces of blank paper, you or your child should draw pictures (simple stick-figures will do) to show the main events in the story. Your child can then dictate the words that go along with each picture and you can write them for him. Have him place the cards in order. Start with just 3 cards for the beginning, middle, and end of the story and add more as your child is ready.
- Build Your Own Book. Have your child make books out of his favorite stories. Staple several pieces of paper together and allow your child to dictate the words to you (or he can write the sounds he hears in each word to represent the words). He can draw pictures to add to each page.
- Use pictures/photos of a known activity (Making a PBJ, brushing teeth etc.) and have child sequence the photos in sequence. Child can share verbally or add words to sticky notes below the photos to practice sequencing using words like: first, next, then last.
- For children in 3-5, Sequence Main Events. Compare it to texting on a cell phone. When texting a message you are limited to a certain number of characters. See if children are able to sequence main events/summarize what they want to say in a "text box"

Literature that supports the application of this skill:



[The Very Hungry Caterpillar \(Board book\)](#)

by [Eric Carle](#)



[The Mitten \(Board book\)](#)

by [Jan Brett](#)



[Stone Soup \(Paperback\)](#)



[Stellaluna \(Hardcover\)](#)

[Newspaper or magazine articles](#)

Questions/Phrases that a parent can ask his/her child to reinforce this skill:

- Talk me through the events in this story. First... Next...Then...Finally...
- Tell me what this story is about...
- Describe what happened in the story
- In the beginning... After that... At the end of the story