

Building Sentences // Age 4-5

Looking at books

Books with 'busy' pictures (such as the First 1000 words books) provide good opportunities for practising simple sentences. Take turns to describe something that is happening in the picture, then the other person has to find it, e.g. 'The girl is jumping on the boy's sandcastle'



What is it?

Use a selection of real objects in a bag or object pictures. Take turns taking an object or a picture out of the bag and describing it (without the other person seeing!). If you are unsure of what the object is ask your child for information such as – where do you find it? What do you use it for? This will develop your child's describing and questioning skills.

Actions game

Use a hoop or a carpet square as an 'actions' space. Everyone playing sits around the hoop so that they can all see the action. Take turns to stand in the hoop and do an action (sticking your tongue out, jumping up and down, waving your hand). Sit back down in the circle, then ask one child 'What did I do?' 'You jumped!' Model to them the use of the past tense to talk about the action you did (e.g. 'Claire hopped on one leg' instead of 'Claire is hopping' as the child will have finished the action before you ask the question).

