

## Building Sentences // Age 3 - 4

### Model Language by giving a running commentary

Talk to your child about what they are doing throughout the day, for example when they are playing (e.g. 'you are giving teddy something to eat'). This will help the words make more sense and help your child to learn language.



### Describing pictures

Look at pictures together - Share the pictures with your child and ponder about what's happening. For example, "oh! let's have a look.... I wonder what's happening here... look!", then leave an expectant pause to give your child an opportunity to describe the picture if they are ready to. If they're not ready to, you can describe the picture for them, e.g. 'The boy is riding a bike'. Then leave a pause as they might want to repeat after you. This is a good way of encouraging your child to describe pictures without the pressure to do so.

### Games to play with action pictures

- Make a postbox out of a cereal box and get your child to tell you what is happening in the pictures and then post them.
- Hide the pictures around the room and get your child to find them and then tell you what is happening.
- Play fishing games by using a magnet and attaching paper clips to pictures. Your child has to "fish" for a picture and tell you what is happening.

### Talk about what adults and other children are doing within the home.

e.g. "Grandma would like to read you a story, she is sitting in the kitchen."  
"Sarah and Sam are breaking an egg, they are making a cake."

