

First, Next, Last

Children begin learning about sequencing—that one thing predictably follows another—from household routines. First it’s playtime, then it’s dinner, then it’s a bath, then a story and bed. Understanding that order matters is important preparation for reading, writing, math, science, and history, among other things. These activities will help your child become more aware of the sequence of *first*, *next*, and *last*.

Comics

Look in a newspaper for comic strips with simple pictures that show a sequence. Cut out each square and let your child put the comic strips back in the correct order. Or make simple drawings of the important events in one of your child’s favorites stories, cut them out, and have your child put them in order.

Acting

Ask your child to act out a sequence of events. For example, “Put your shoes on. Fasten your shoes. Stand up.” Then ask what happened first, next, and last.

Calendar

Using a calendar, help your child say the days of the week and the months of the year in the correct sequence. Once they have mastered that skill, you can discuss the order of family birthdays through the year.

Books to Read

Here are some books you may want to read together:

Caps for Sale! by Esphyr Slobodkina
Building Our House by Jonathan Bean
Room on the Broom by Julia Donaldson
Tell Me the Day Backwards by Albert Lamb
The Little Red Hen by Lucinda McQueen
The Line Up Book by Marisabina Russo
The Mitten Retold by Jan Brett