

# C1: Introducing Sentences: Who It's About

Lesson Objective: Children will be able to identify the two parts of a sentence and understand that a sentence is a little story.

## Materials

No materials are needed for this activity, but you will want to write down the sentences you make up, so that you can use them again in the next activity.

## Activity

Video: How to play Introducing Sentences: Who It's About

Start by giving your child a simple explanation of what a sentence is. For example:

Adult: A sentence is a very little story.

Again, a sentence is a little story.

What is a sentence?

Child: A little story.

Adult: Yes. "A sentence is a little story." Say that.

Child: A sentence is a little story.

Adult: That's right. A sentence has two parts.

It has a who it's about part [hold up one finger] and a what's happening part. [hold up a second finger] How many parts does a sentence have?

Child: Two parts.

Adult: Yes, a sentence has two parts.

It has a who it's about part and a what's happening part.

What are the two parts of a sentence?

Child: Who it's about, and, um...

Adult: A sentence tells you who it's about, and what's happening.

Say it with me.

Adult & Child: A sentence tells you who it's about, and what's happening.

Adult: One more time. What does a sentence tell you?

A sentence tells you...

Child: who it's about, and what's happening.

Adult: Yes, a sentence tells who it's about and what's happening.

# C1: Introducing Sentences: Who It's About (continued)

Now you will have your child identify the who it's about part of some simple sentences that you will make up with input from your child. Use the child's name for the who it's about part, or subject — kids love hearing their own name in a lesson. For the what's happening part, use some concrete actions that the child enjoys.

Adult: Good job saying what a sentence tells.

Now let's make a sentence — a little story — about YOU!

Tell me some things that you have fun doing.

Child: Blowing bubbles!

Adult: Okay, listen: “[Child's Name] blows lots of bubbles outside.”      What's the  
little story — the sentence — I just said?

Say the whole thing I just said.

Child: “[Child's Name] blows lots of bubbles outside.”

Adult: Yes! That was my sentence — my little story.

Can you tell me the who it's about part of my sentence?

The who it's about part of my sentence was...

NOTE: If the child struggles, repeat your sentence, emphasize the child's name (the who it's aboutpart), and hold up one finger for each of the two sentence parts as you say them.

Adult: Yes! The who it's about part of my sentence was [Child's Name]. That's YOU!

Here are some more examples of sentences you can make up about your child:

- Logan swims at the pool.
- Logan plays with his dog.
- Logan zips up his coat.

Then make up some simple sentences using people she knows and activities going on around her. Use a variety of action verbs with past, future, and present tenses.

# C1: Introducing Sentences: Who It's About (continued)

Have her repeat your sentence and then tell you the who it's about part. Here are some examples:

- Mom's cat sleeps under the table. [action verb, present tense]
- Stewart lost his green shoes. [action verb, past tense]
- Daddy ate a sandwich. [action verb, past tense]
- Our dog will bark at strangers. [action verb, future tense]
- Baby sister cries a lot! [action verb, present tense]

NOTE: Write down your sentences so that you can use them in later lessons.

Go through at least 10 sentences in a session. After each example, restate the point of the exercise: "You listened to my sentence and told me who my little story was about!"

## Small Groups (2-5 children)

Additional Materials:

- optional: photos of individual children in the class

Adaptation: Read the main activity, watch the video, and follow the instructions above, with the following changes:

Create little stories (sentences) about each of the children in the group. Make up sentences about activities each child likes. If you are using photos, hold up that child's photo. Say, "Daveed likes puzzles. Who is the sentence — the little story — about? What's happening in the story?"

NOTE: If the children are under age four, use sentences with just 2-5 words.