

C3: Identifying Who & What's Happening

Lesson Objective: Using picture cards for visual aids, children will be able to identify the two parts of a spoken sentence.

Materials

For this activity you will need:

- Picture cards that you can use as inspiration for creating sentences

Print the picture cards onto sturdy card-stock paper, and cut them apart along the dotted lines.

Activity

Video: How to play Identifying Who & What's Happening

Before you start the game, remind your child what a sentence is and how it can be divided into parts.

Adult: Do you remember what we learned about very little stories?

What do we call a very little story?

Child: Sentence?

Adult: Yes, a sentence is a very little story. A sentence has two parts, a who it's about part and a what's happening part.

What are the parts?

Child: Who it's about and what's happening.

Adult: That's right.

Now give him different sentences to identify the who it's about part (the subject) and the what's happening part (the predicate). Use the picture cards for inspiration.

C3: Identifying Who & What's Happening (continued)

Adult: [holding up card] Here is a sentence:

“The dog chews on a bone.”

What is the who it's about part in that sentence?

Child: The doggy!

Adult: Yes. What is the what's happening part?

Child: Um...

Adult: You said the dog is who it's about.

So, what's happening? What is the dog doing in the story?

Child: Chews on a bone!

Adult: That's right. “The dog chews on a bone.”

We know this is a sentence because it has a
who it's about part and a what's happening part.

Your sentences should have action verbs in various tenses: past, present, and future. Do at least ten of these examples in a session. Revisit this activity frequently to make sure that your child has a firm understanding of the two parts of a sentence.

Small Groups (2-5 children)

Additional Materials: optional: music

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

Give each child a picture card, face down. Show the children how to pass the card to the next child while you count to ten. (Alternately, play music for several seconds while they pass cards, then stop the music.) At the count of ten, say “Freeze!” and have the children turn over their cards. The teacher will call on each child in turn, provide a sentence for his picture, and have him say the who it's about and the what's happening for his sentence. Sometimes ask for the who it's about part first, and sometimes ask for the what's happening part first. Continue the game until all the children have had several turns.

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