

Time & Sequencing



Learn Time Concepts with a Calendar

Introduce and learn days of the week and time concepts, past, present, future by keeping a large monthly calendar. Visual aids and interactive techniques give learning a boost. Get big markers, stickers and pictures to mark special events, appointments, birthdays, trips, school project due dates, etc. on the calendar. You

may want to use color codes for reoccurring events such as team practice or weekly visits to specialists.

By having hands on interaction with the calendar, you create opportunities to talk about people you may be visiting in the future as well as talk about what happened in the past, results of past activities. It gives “time” a context and a visual reference point. Plus it allows practice using grammar that reflects time, such as future tense, “will” and past tense “ed” plus all the irregular forms (slept, drew).

I recommend having 2 months to view at one time. Which means the back of a bedroom door or closet may be a good place to hang such a large item. Not sure how big your refrigerator is! Make sure that your child takes the responsibility to mark things and plug things into the calendar, count off the days until it comes and X out days that are completed. If you don’t have a calendar or need a do-over, you can probably download some large box calendars from the internet.

Calendar Key Words: Think of which key words to use when discussing time and sequence of events such as; Before, After, Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow, Morning, Night, Afternoon.

Questions to ask: When did we....? When will we....? How many days until the? Remember that repetition of the same questions help with success and learning.

Explaining Procedures: Demonstrating and Talking about how you do a task is another great way to teach the language that goes with time and sequencing. Chores are a great place to start!! Yep, use the chores to teach sequence. Let’s start with laundry! **Key words:** First, Next, Last.



Tell the story of laundry! First, we get the dirty clothes. Next we take the basket to the washing machine. And actually do each step. Narrate each step and then check for comprehension by asking questions like; What did we do first? What's next? What happened after the bell goes off? What did we do before we put the clothes in the dryer? etc. Give time for your child to answer. If no answer, just model the correct response. Do this as you go along. Make sure the sequences are broken into little steps. At the end, do a complete review in a few sentences. You can make it sing songy, use silly rhymes, have fun with it. Extra perk...your child will eventually know how to do his own laundry!!



How To: Making toast or a simple sandwich is another good activity. Start by saying, “how do we make a peanut butter jelly sandwich?” Then demonstrate with narration. “First we get all the ingredients: bread, peanut butter, cheese (whatever your ingredients). “then NEXT (Second) step is to spread, put cheese on, etc. Make sure your child is actually are doing the steps too. Doing it makes children remember more. English muffins pizzas, spreadable cheese and crackers, making chocolate milk, lemonade and other juices from powder are other easy fun activities to practice sequencing and using “time and sequencing words”. The idea is to practice using terms such as before, next, after, and then, the next step, etc. as you describe procedures and how tos. Just be sure to ask questions as you go along and give time to answer. It’s OK if the first few times you are directing and doing most of the modeling. Your child may need time to process information in a new way. Modifications may include shorter sentences and repetition of the same activity with less cueing and prompts. With practice your child will become familiar with expectation and jump in there with responses. Keep it fun.

Hope that gives you some doable ideas for learning about time and sequence. Have fun and keep your eyes open for the next teachable moment.

Visit again next month for another Lynn’s Lesson.

