Sequencing Skills for Older Children

The ability to sequence ideas is an important skill which is used in both spoken and written tasks. We use sequencing skills to give news, describe an event and tell stories.

**Picture sequences**

- Once the child understands the concepts first, next, and then, last in practical situations move onto using pictures
- Use 2 or 3 pictures/photographs initially and gradually build this up
- Start by using simple everyday picture sequences and then move onto activities which are less common
- Talk about each picture in a random order
- Place the pictures in a vertical line on the table
- Ask the child to decide which picture comes first
- Move this picture and start a new horizontal line
- Encourage the child to choose the next picture in the sequence etc
- Once all the pictures are in the correct order, the child tells the story
- Repeat the story back to the child using a good model of sentence structure and linking words
Story telling

- Start by using familiar repetitive stories or fairy tales e.g. Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Red Riding Hood, We’re Going on a Bear Hunt, The Gruffalo, Dear Zoo, The Tiger Who Came for Tea
- Initially use a book as a prompt
- The adult tells a simplified version of the story and then the child re-tells you
- Talk about the story in terms of who, what, where, when and encourage the child to think about what might happen next
- Act out plays of the story/use puppets
- Encourage the child to make up their own short stories

Re-telling events

- Start by using events that have happened in school so that you know what happened. Encourage the child to re-tell the event to you, give support if needed.

- Encourage the child to tell you about an event e.g. something they did at the weekend. Involve them in group activities where the children share their news with each other.

- Provide opportunities for the child to give a sequence of instructions to other children e.g. during P.E