

## Before and After

Some children find the concept of before/after difficult to understand. This concept relates to position and time. Below are some examples of how we use these words.

### **Before**

#### **preposition**

Previous to in time; earlier than.

In front of.

In store for; awaiting: *The young man's whole life lies before him.*

Into or in the presence of: *She asked that the visitor be brought before her.*

Under the consideration or jurisdiction of: *The case is now before the court.*

In a position superior to: *The prince is before his brother in the line of succession.*

#### **adverb**

Earlier in time: *They called me the day before.*

In front; ahead.

#### **conjunction**

In advance of the time when: *See me before you leave.*

Rather than; sooner than: *I will die before I will betray my country.*

### **After**

#### **Preposition**

Behind in place or order: *Z comes after Y in the alphabet.*

Next to or lower than in order or importance.

In quest or pursuit of: *seek after fame; go after big money.*

Concerning: *asked after you.*

Subsequent in time to; at a later time than: *come after dinner.*

Following continually: *year after year.*

Past the hour of: *five minutes after three.*

#### **adverb**

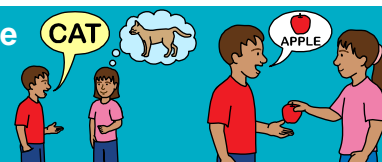
Behind; in the rear.

At a later or subsequent time; afterward: *three hours after; departed shortly after.*

#### **conjunction**

Following or subsequent to the time that: *I saw them after I arrived*

As you can see from the list the words before/after are used in many ways - not having a basic understanding of these words will impact on a pupils ability to generally understand what is going on at school and to access the curriculum. Many maths skills assume understanding of this concept. You should check that children with language difficulties do understand what before/after means in terms of position and time.



## Position

Suggested activities.....

### Position of pictures

E.g. what picture comes before the plane?  
what picture comes after the dog?



### Position of words in sentences

E.g. what word comes before his?  
what word comes after dog?

**Jack took his dog to the park**

### Position in familiar sequences (numbers, days of week, alphabet)

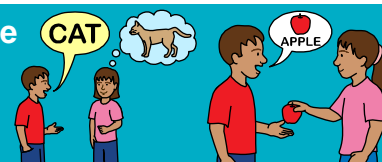
E.g. what number comes before 5?  
what number comes after 7?

• **2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10**

Try this initially with words written so pupils can see them. When the pupil can do this see if they can work out the answer without any written clues.

### Position in class activities

E.g. who has a turn before you?  
who came after Andy in the race?



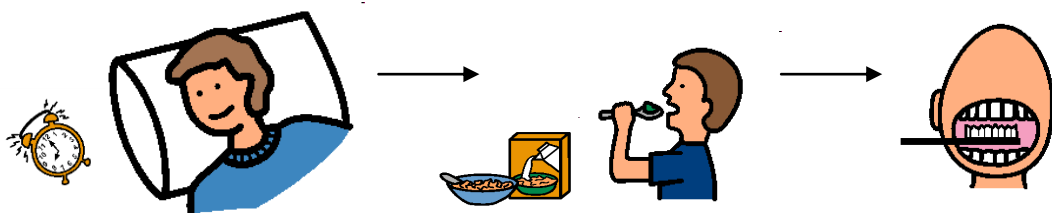
## Time

Suggested activities.....

### Familiar sequences (picture stories)

E.g. what do you do after you wake up?  
what do you do before you get dressed?

Use sequencing pictures to talk about before/after.



### Before/after instructions

With objects

E.g. before you pick up the pencil give me the book

With pictures

e.g. after you point to the apple point to the house

Keep instructions short using everyday vocabulary

### Familiar sequences (school day)

Look at pupils timetable – what lesson is before/after etc

### Time Lines

Relate before/after to timelines – see separate sheet.

