Developing Comprehension and Expression at the Three Key Word Level

The following advice and activities are aimed at helping the child progress from understanding and using two words to understanding and using three words together.

It is important to take turns throughout all the activities so that the child has an opportunity to give the instructions to practice their expressive language skills.

**General Advice**

- Gain the child’s full attention before giving an instruction.
- Use words the child already knows when moving from two word level to three word level activities.
- Activities should be completed little and often.
- Start by using real objects or people, then move onto using pictures or photos.
- Gather together objects that will be useful for working on prepositions e.g. small box, bag, toy animals, action figures, pretend food, toy furniture.
- Use objects that are motivating for the child e.g. their favourite toys/interests.
- Use choices to help the child use prepositions initially e.g. Should I kick the ball to Mummy or throw the beanbag to Daddy? This provides a good model for the child to copy.
- Make the activities fun and use them during the daily routine.
- The child should be able to complete all activities at this level before they are ready to progress to the next level.
- Remember to give the child a turn to give instructions.
**Person and Action and Place**

You need a teddy, dolly, chair and a table.

e.g. ‘Make teddy stand on the chair’
     ‘Make dolly sleep on the table’
     ‘Make teddy sleep on the table’

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**Action on Object (inc. possession)**

**Activity One**
You need a dolly, teddy, brush and sponge.

e.g. ‘Wash teddy’s foot’
     ‘Brush dolly’s tummy’
     ‘Brush teddy’s sock’

**Activity Two**
You need a washing-up bowl, a toy iron and 2 of each item of clothing (children’s or dolls).

e.g. ‘Wash teddy’s sock’
     ‘Iron dolly’s jumper’
     ‘Iron teddy’s jumper’

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**Person and Action and Object**

You need a dolly, teddy, ball and an empty plastic bottle.

e.g. ‘Make dolly throw the ball’
     ‘Make teddy kick the bottle’
     ‘Make dolly kick the bottle’
Object and Possession and Place

Activity One
You need a spoon, brick, teddy, dolly, 2 cups, 2 boxes.

e.g. ‘Put the spoon in teddy’s cup’
     ‘Put the brick in dolly’s box’

Activity Two
You need a car, ball, teddy, dolly, 2 boxes and 2 bags.

e.g. ‘Put the car in dolly’s box’
     ‘Put the ball in teddy’s bag’

Action and Object and Person

Activity One
You need a ball, balloon, teddy, dolly, beanbag, duck and monkey.

e.g. ‘Kick the ball to teddy’
     ‘Throw the beanbag to monkey’

Activity Two
You need 2 people, a car, boat, lorry and a train.

e.g. ‘Push the car to ……………… (insert name)
     ‘Give the boat to ……………… (insert name)’
Action and Possession and Place

You need a dolly which will be completing all the actions and a teddy, duck, 2 beds, 2 chairs and 2 tables. Teddy and duck have a bed, chair and table each.

e.g. ‘Make dolly jump on duck’s bed’
    ‘Make dolly sit on teddy’s table’

Person and Action and Place

Activity One
You need a rabbit, frog, door and window.

e.g. ‘Make rabbit run to the window’
    ‘Make frog jump to the door’

Activity Two
You need dolly, teddy, walk, jump, table and chair.

e.g. ‘Make dolly jump to the table’
    ‘Make teddy walk to the chair’

Object and Preposition and Place

Activity One
You need a spoon, brick, cup, table, chair and dolly.

e.g. ‘Put the brick in the cup’
    ‘Put dolly on the chair’

Activity Two
You need a car, man, basket, book and box.

e.g. ‘Put the man under the box’
    ‘Put the book in the box’
**Preposition and Possession and Place**

Activity One  
You need a spoon, teddy, dolly, duck, monkey, 2 cups, 2 boxes, 2 tables and 2 chairs.

e.g.  ‘Put the spoon in teddy’s cup’  
     ‘Put the spoon under duck’s chair’

Activity Two  
You need a teddy, 2 boxes, 2 bags, 2 tables and 2 chairs. Mummy figure and Daddy figure. Give Mummy and Daddy a box, bag, table and chair each.

e.g.  ‘Put teddy under Mummy’s bag’  
     ‘Put teddy on Daddy’s chair’

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**Object and Adjective and Place**

You need a spoon, brick, teddy, dolly, red cup, yellow cup, big box, little box and bag.

e.g.  ‘Put the spoon in the red cup’  
     ‘Put dolly in the little box’

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**Adjective and Object and Person**

Activity One  
You need a big cup, little cup, big ball, little ball, teddy and monkey.

e.g.  ‘Give the little cup to teddy’  
     ‘Give the big ball to monkey’

Activity Two  
You need a red pencil, blue pencil, red car, blue car, dog and dolly.

e.g.  ‘Give the blue car to dolly’  
     ‘Give the red pencil to the dog’
**Action and Adjective and Place**

**Activity One**
You need dolly, red box, blue box, red hoop and blue hoop.

e.g. ‘Make dolly **stand** in the **red** hoop’
     ‘Make dolly **sit** in the **blue** box’

**Activity Two**
You need a big chair, little chair, big table, little table and teddy.

e.g. ‘Make teddy **jump** on the **big** table’
     ‘Make teddy **sleep** on the **little** chair’

**Action and Adjective and Object**

**Activity One**
Your need brush, sponge, big dolly, little dolly, big teddy and little teddy.

e.g. ‘**Brush** the **little** teddy’
     ‘**Wash** the **big** dolly’

**Activity Two**
You need a sponge, red car, blue car, red boat and blue boat.

e.g. ‘**Wash** the **blue** boat’
     ‘**Push** the **red** car’

**Action and Adjective and Place**

**Activity One**
You need a white house, a red house, a red car, and a white car.

e.g. ‘**Jump** to the **red** house’
     ‘**Walk** to the **red** car’

**Activity Two**
You need a big train, little train, big boat and little boat.

e.g. ‘**Walk** to the **little** boat’
     ‘**Run** to the **big** boat’