



Action time

This activity is great for helping children develop their skills at using verbs – the words we use to describe actions.

Setting up

Make a set of picture cards by cutting up the *Action Time* sheet at the back of this book. The cards show a range of verbs, such as *walk*, *look* and *jump*.

Playing the game

Place the picture cards face down and ask the first child to choose one. Let's suppose that Julie picks the card for *jump*.

Julie then selects someone from the group and tells them to do the action on the card. For example, Julie says: '*I choose David... David, jump!*' David jumps, then selects another member of the group and gives them the same instruction. '*I choose Mital... Mital, jump.*'



'It's fun using different words to tell people what to do.'

Remember

Make sure you give plenty of positive feedback. '*Julie, that was good talking. You were very clear.*' '*David, you did good listening. You knew what to do.*'

Moving on...

When everyone in the group has had a go at the first verb, another picture card is chosen by a different child and the routine is repeated.

Variations

Make some props available – for example, an apple, a book, a ball, etc.

This time the children have to choose (a) the picture card with the verb, (b) the person they are going to instruct, and (c) an item to involve in the instruction. For example: '*John eat the apple.*'

You can also ask the children to give 'silly' instructions, such as: '*Mrs Brown, read the banana.*' This is more than just a bit of extra fun. Knowing which sentences make sense and which don't is an important ability for a child to develop.

Day to day

Help children to have more control over their lives by encouraging them to give clear instructions ('*Daddy, can you blow up my football, please?*') or asking for permission to do something ('*Mrs Brown, can we put the hoops away, please?*')