

Other things to try: 4c

Understanding three key words (iii)

What to do

- Gather together the following toys/objects:
 - ★ Two figures (e.g. Bob the Builder, Spiderman, doll, teddy)
 - ★ A toy bed and a toy chair
- Show the child that you can make the characters perform different actions (e.g. jump, stand, sit) on the toy chair or bed. Encourage the child to copy your play.
- Encourage the child to listen and follow the instructions you give using three key words:
 - ★ ‘Make *Bob* jump on the *chair*.’
 - ★ ‘Make *Spiderman* sit on the *bed*.’
 - ★ ‘Make *Spiderman* sleep on the *bed*.’

N.B. If you are checking three-word level understanding, remember not to look at, point to or give any visual clues when showing the child what you want him/her to do.

- If a child can't manage the task, repeat the instruction, and then gently guide him/her to the right toys. Give the instruction again as the child copies or is shown what to do.



Step up

- Increase the number of characters to three or four.
- Increase the number of places where the characters can jump, sleep – add a table or cupboard perhaps.

Step down

- Use gestures/signs alongside the key words.
- Adjust the word level: give the child one of the characters (e.g. Bob the Builder) and give the instructions as above. The child will only have to understand two key words at this stage (e.g. ‘Make Bob jump on the chair’ – the child will only have to understand ‘jump’ and ‘chair’ as there is no choice of who is going to do it).
- Once the child is successful here, replace the toys but this time with both toy characters. Give the same instruction again (e.g. ‘Make Bob jump on the chair’).

