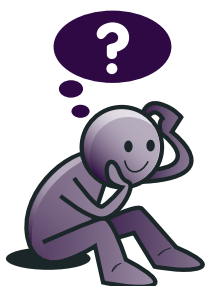


## Section 9.10

# Talking about things that are going to happen (the future tense)

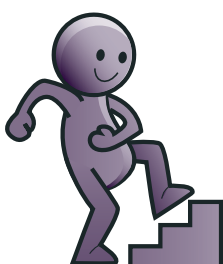


### Why is this important?

Children need to be able to explain routines and events that they know will happen, either soon or over a longer timescale. They also need to be able to predict circumstances and events that might happen. For any or all of these, the future tense is important.

### What to do

- Gather together some food items and play a shopping game together.
- Give the child a list of items (in picture format) that he/she needs to buy from the shop. Ask:
  - ★ ‘What are you going to buy from the shop?’
- Expect the child to use the lead in phrase ...
  - ★ ‘I’m going to buy ...’
- Encourage the child to remember the items he/she needs and ask the shop-keeper (adult) for it.
- Repeat the sequence until the child has collected all the items on the ‘list’.



### Step up

- When the child ‘returns’ from the shop ask: ‘What did you buy?’ This will also require understanding and use of the past tense. Use the lead-in phrase ‘I went to the shops and bought ...’
- Move onto more complex future tense structures (e.g. ‘I will buy’, ‘I shall buy’).
- Use sequence cards or draw sequences of something about to happen, something happening and then something that has happened. Can the child use the correct tenses for each (e.g. mum going to make a cup of tea, mum making a cup of tea, mum has made a cup of tea).
- Talk about things that are going to happen tomorrow or at the weekend (e.g. the arrival of visitors, someone’s birthday).

### Step down

- Reverse the roles to begin with so the adult goes shopping first.
- When the child has finished an activity, introduce the idea of something happening next by asking ‘What would you like to play next?’
- Use visual prompts (e.g. written word support cards).

