



## CURRICULUM SPOTLIGHT:

### Sequencing SPARK CARDS

#### Overview

This month's featured curriculum, Sequencing SPARK Cards, offers an engaging and highly effective way to strengthen children's picture interpretation, sequencing abilities, and overall problem-solving skills. Each SPARK set includes six sequential picture scenes that tell a cohesive mini-story, beautifully illustrated with rich details that encourage children to engage with the narrative. Children can sequence all six cards or simplify the set to three or four pictures for beginners who are just learning how to organize and retell a story.

Whether used during structured therapy sessions or in playful storytelling activities, SPARK Cards provide supportive, visual learning opportunities. They encourage inferencing, predicting, and reasoning, and support responses to both basic WH-questions (who, what, where, when) and higher-level "why" and "how" prompts. While the full set promotes advanced reasoning and storytelling, individual cards can also be used alone to target a wide variety of language goals, including sentence formulation, vocabulary development, and describing details.



Each card includes its own magic decoder shape, allowing children to self-check the correct order of the sequence- an exciting and motivating self-monitoring feature that builds independence and confidence.

## Concepts Learned

Through SPARK Cards, children learn to look closely, think critically, and communicate clearly. The picture scenes are intentionally designed with multiple visible clues that help children support their answers rather than guess. As they explore each sequence, children practice identifying key actions and events, understanding basic story structure (beginning, middle, end), and responding to WH-questions to build comprehension. They also engage in higher-level thinking by answering “why” and “how” questions, inferring what may be happening beyond the picture, predicting what could happen next, and comparing characters, objects, and settings. Throughout the process, children strengthen expressive language by describing actions, emotions, and important details, ultimately retelling stories with improved clarity, organization, and confidence.

## Goals to Target Using This Curriculum

SPARK Cards support essential goals across language and communication, social-emotional skills, perspective-taking, and critical thinking.

Using this curriculum, therapists can target:

- Answer who, what, where, and when questions
- Respond to why and how questions using picture clues
- Describe the main idea and supporting details
- Use temporal concepts (first, next, then, last)
- Expand vocabulary and descriptive language
- Demonstrate problem-solving through picture interpretation
- Infer what happened or might happen based on visual clues in the pictures
- Predict what might happen next in the story
- Demonstrate flexible thinking by recognizing more than one possible interpretation
- Identify how different characters may feel or react
- Explain reasoning (“I think he is worried because...”)
- Identify thoughts, intentions, and motivations
- Engage in conversations that require turn-taking and elaboration



## Using Question Prompts with SPARK Cards

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When exploring a picture sequence, try using open-ended questions to spark deeper thinking and richer language. Encourage children to point out the specific clues that helped them reach their answers.

### Basic WH Prompts:

- Who is in the picture?
- What is happening here?
- Where are they?
- When do you think this is happening?

### Higher-Level Prompts:

- Why do you think that happened? What clues tell you that?
- How do you know what might happen next?
- What problems do you see? How could the character solve them?
- What is the character thinking or feeling? Why?
- What else might be happening that we can't see?

These prompts build reasoning, flexible thinking, and expressive language—and because there are often multiple valid answers, children learn to justify their thinking with confidence.

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