

Nativity Play Sequence for Eliciting 2-3 Word Phrases

Materials: Nativity set with stable, several people, and animals

A) Line up Nativity figures

Objective 1: To identify figures expressively

- Line up people and name each one as child observes
- Encourage child to imitate play and talk

Objective 2: To imitate animal sounds

- Line up animals and name each one as child observes
- Model/prompt animal sounds. ie. "What does the sheep say?"
- If child says, "baa", respond with imitation and expansion: "Yes, sheep says *baa*." Prompt child to imitate phrase "Sheep says *baa*."
- Repeat with other animals.

Objective 2: To encode protest

- Mislabeled a figure. ie. Pick up Baby Jesus and say, "This is Joseph."
- Model or expand protest. ie. "No, this is not Joseph! This is Jesus!"
- Mislabeled another figure. Model or prompt protest.
- Give the wrong sound for an animal. ie. Pick up a sheep and say, "moo".
- Model or expand protest. ie. "No, Sheep says *baa*, not *moo*!"

B) Explore the Stable

Objective 1: To initiate conversation

- Model "Look! The stable! Let's look at the stable."

Objective 2: To identify parts of the stable expressively

- Point out and label the different parts of the stable.
ie. "Look! Here's the door. Here's the manger. Here's the hay."
- Encourage child to imitate the phrases.
- Ask the child to identify parts of the stable by pointing.
ie. Ask, "Where's the window? Where's the manger?"
- Model/prompt child to point and say, "Here's the window." or "Window there."

C) Put the Figures in the Stable

Objective 1: To use the prepositions *in*, *next to*, and/or *beside*.

- Say "Brrr! It's so cold outside. Joseph and Mary want to go *in* the stable."
- Model play acting Joseph and Mary walking into the stable.
Say, "Joseph *in*. Mary *in*." etc.
- Repeat with more figures, inviting child to imitate play and talk.

- Ask, "Where should we put the angel?". Encourage child to point.
- Model/prompt "Next to _____" or "beside _____".
- Repeat with more figures, but save some for Objective 2.

Objective 2: To encode request for object. To use preposition *behind*.

- When child is not looking, hide a few of the figures behind you.
- Model or prompt request for missing figure. ie. "Where is Baby Jesus?"
- Together, search for missing figure, then, "Oh! Here he is! He was *behind* me."
- Ask "What else was behind me?"
- Model/prompt "_____ behind you. _____ behind you."
- Neglect to give child the other figures so he/she has to ask for them.
- If necessary, ask, "Do you want more people/animals?"
- Model/prompt "I want _____"

Objective 3: To encode protest.

- Ask, "Where should we put _____? On the roof?"
- Model/prompt: "No! Not on the roof!"
- Ask "Where, then?"
- Model/prompt: "In the stable" or "Next to _____"
- Repeat with another figure.

Objective 4: To produce noun + verbing

- "Look! Joseph is praying. What is Mary doing?" IF child says "praying," respond with imitation and expansion: "Mary praying" or "Mary kneeling."
- Talk about what each of the figures are doing. ie. *Jesus is sleeping. Sheep is sitting. Cow is looking. Shepherd is standing. Wiseman is bowing.* Encourage child to imitate phrases.

D) Put Figures to Sleep

Objective 1: To encode commands and farewell

- Say "Phew! It's night time! Everyone is tired. Time to go to sleep."
- Model play acting while saying, "Go to sleep, Joseph. " or "Sleep Joseph.", "Sleep Mary", etc. Encourage child to imitate play and talk.
- Then: "Good night Joseph! Good night Mary" etc.
- Next: "Shhh! Everyone is asleep. Let's go to sleep, too." Lie down and encourage child to pretend sleeping.
- Pretend Baby Jesus wakes up, saying, "Waahh! waaahh! waahhh!"
- Say, "Oh no! Baby Jesus is awake! What should we do?"
- Prompt response and/or expand on response.
 - ie. If child says, "Baby sleep", pretend to put baby back to sleep.
 - If child says, "Wake up" pretend to wake up each of the figures.
 - Model/prompt child to say "Mary, wake up!" etc.