

Language Development Lessons for Early Childhood

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Illustrations by Kevin M. Newman

The purpose of these lessons is to strengthen listening skills and to provide various methods to encourage young learners to answer questions orally and to enjoy communicating with others.

The questions incorporate three basic techniques that encourage children to interact with a speaker.

Yes or No Answers:

For the reluctant talker, saying yes or no or shaking the head will let the professional know if the child is comprehending the questions.

Choosing Between Two Answers:

For shy children or children who have difficulty with word-retrieval, choosing between answers they hear eliminates the problem of knowing the answer but being unable to retrieve it from memory. This type of practice seems to improve the child's ability to recall answers.

Completing Sentences:

For children who need practice in using inferences and associations to improve word retrieval skills, sentence completion activities play a valuable role.

While one technique may work better than others, all three are excellent practice in stimulating receptive and expressive language in young children.

The activities in each lesson provide the structured method and repetitious practice needed to master these skills.

Each lesson has a student worksheet and three lesson plans. All four sheets should be reproduced and stored together as a unit. For students who are only able to do one lesson each day, it may be necessary to make three copies of the student worksheet so that one will be available for each lesson.

Name: _____

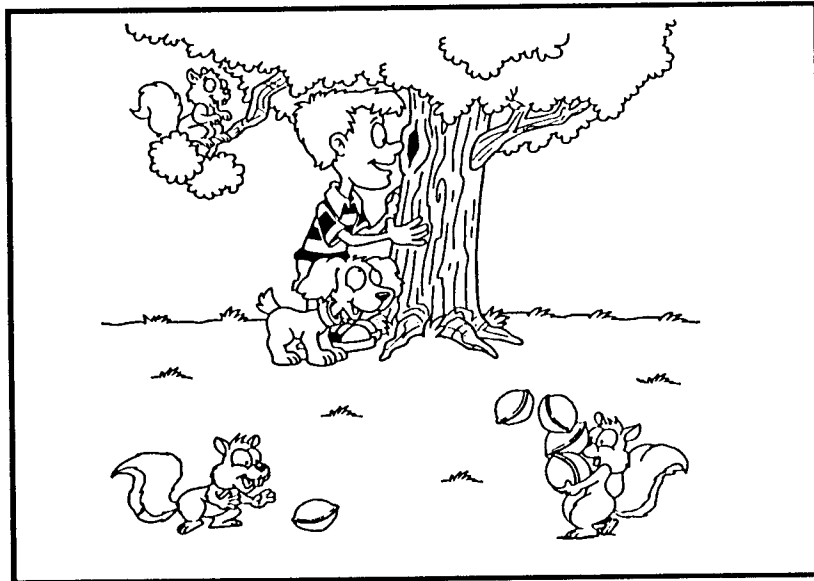
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Instructor's Worksheet

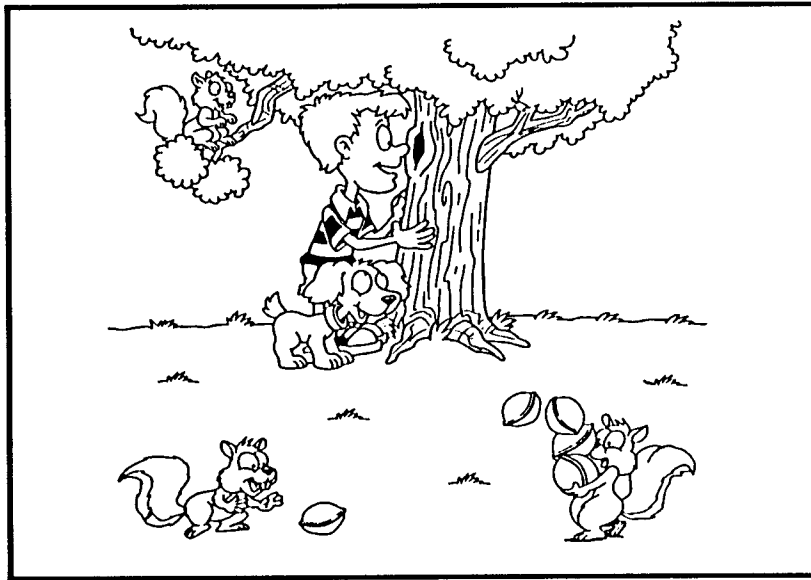
Yes or No Answers

DIRECTIONS: Before beginning, each student should be given a copy of the student worksheet that corresponds to the instructor's worksheet. Students should look at the large picture as the instructor reads each question aloud. The questions only require a yes or no answer. Some students may choose to verbalize more details. Non-verbal students may answer through their individual methods of indicating yes or no.



1. Do you see three squirrels in the picture?
2. Are the squirrels gathering strawberries?
3. Is the dog looking in a hole?
4. Does the tree have branches?
5. Is the dog standing beside the boy?
6. Does the dog look like it is barking?
7. Is one squirrel dropping some of the nuts?
8. Do you see any birds in the tree?
9. Can the dog climb the tree?
10. Do you see lots of leaves in the picture?

DIRECTIONS: Before beginning, each student should be given a copy of the student worksheet that corresponds to the instructor's worksheet. Students should look at the large picture as the instructor reads each question aloud. Each question includes a choice of two answers. This method of questioning only requires recognizing the correct answer and repeating it. It is excellent practice for developing skills in answering questions.

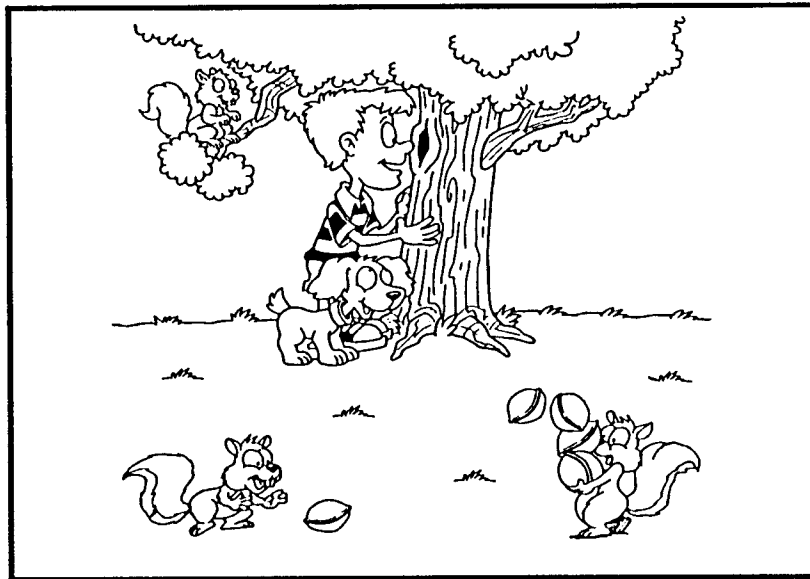


1. Do you see four squirrels or three squirrels in the picture?
2. Are the squirrels gathering nuts or strawberries?
3. Is the boy looking in the leaves or in a hole in the tree?
4. Is the puppy looking in the hole or looking at the boy?
5. Does the tree have branches or arms?
6. Does the boy have on a striped shirt or a polka-dotted shirt?
7. Is the squirrel in the tree watching the boy or the other squirrels?
8. Does the dog have a collar or a necklace around its neck?
9. Does the dog have a long tail or a short tail?
10. Is the tree big or little?

Instructor's Worksheet

Completing Sentences

DIRECTIONS: Before beginning, each student should be given a copy of the student worksheet that corresponds to the instructor's worksheet. Students should look at the large picture as the instructor reads each statement aloud. The method of answering is to complete each statement with an appropriate word. This skill incorporates good listening, comprehending, making inferences and associations and using these skills to retrieve an appropriate word. Answers may not always be the same but are correct if they complete an accurate statement.



1. The boy is looking in a _____.
2. The dog is standing beside the _____.
3. On the tree limb, I see a _____.
4. One squirrel is dropping a _____.
5. The boy is wearing a striped _____.
6. Both of the boy's hands are on the _____.
7. I know it is summertime because the tree has _____.
8. I know the boy is happy because he is _____.
9. The dog is not tall enough to peek in the _____.
10. I think the boy is looking for a _____.