

TRAFFIC LIGHT STORYTELLING

When a child is starting to use longer sentences but may miss out words or say them in the wrong order, the best way to help them is by recasting. This is a technique where we repeat a child's sentence but correct or expand it, showing the, the right way to say it without directly pointing out mistakes.

For example, if a child says, "Dog run," the adult might say, "Yes, the dog is running." This way, the child hears the correct grammar or a longer sentence in a natural, supportive way. Recasting helps children learn language by hearing accurate models, encouraging them to use more complete sentences over time, all without feeling pressured or corrected.



EQUIPMENT

You will need:

- A toy car or any small toy vehicle
- A "traffic light" made from coloured paper or just pretend with red, yellow, and green cards. You can also use cups
- A space to drive the car around (table, floor, or hallway)

OTHER WAYS TO PLAY

Play with Toy Animals or Figures

- Child: "Dog jump."
- Parent: "Yes! The dog is jumping over the ball."
- Encourage adding details like colours or actions:

Building Blocks or Lego

- Child: "Block fall."
- Parent: "Oh no! The block fell down!"
- Child: "Build tower."
- Parent: "Let's build a tall tower together"

HOW TO PLAY

Set up the traffic lights (red = stop, yellow = wait, green = go).

Tell your child: "We're going to drive the car around, but we need to say what's happening at each light!"

When the car stops at red, you or your child says a sentence about the car stopping, e.g.:

Child: "Car stop", say: "The car stops at the red light."

At yellow, encourage adding more info or an action:

Child: "Car wait", say: "The car waits carefully."

At green, model a longer sentence about going or what the car does:

Child: "Car go fast", say: "The car goes fast down the road!"

Encourage your child to copy your longer sentence or add one more word each time. If their sentence is jumbled or missing words, just gently repeat the correct version.

Keep it fun by:

Changing the location: "Car goes to the park," "Car goes into the garage."

Add other toys: "Dog runs fast," "Mummy walks slowly."

Using funny voices or sounds for each light!