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Key words are the words in a sentence that carry meaning. It does not mean the actual number of words in a sentence. This is because some words become redundant because of clues around us. Key words are the words a child <u>has to</u> understand in order to follow the instruction.

If you are not sure what your child's level of understanding is, then start with 1 key word instructions. If they can follow these easily then move on to 2 key words, and then 3 key words. When giving instructions it is important not to give additional clues such as looking at, or pointing to, the pictures you have named. Make sure you have said the full instruction before your child starts to respond.

Key words are underlined and in bold in the instructions below.

How to Play Feed the Monster

Setting Up:

- 1. Cut out the monsters, and then cut out their mouths so there is a hole to post pictures through.
- 2. Cut out the food pictures for posting.
- 3. Introduce the monster to your child. Say he is feeling hungry and needs some food. Show and name the different foods.
- 4. Follow the instructions below for whichever key word level your child is working at.

Top Tip: Laminating the pictures or sticking them on card will make them last longer. If you have any spare shoe boxes you could even stick a monster picture onto a shoe box to make an actual posting box. Remember to cut the mouth out so you can post the pictures in.



1 key word instructions:

- Lay out 3 of the big food pictures on the table in front of your child. Hold up **one** of the monster pictures.
- Show your child what to do by posting different food pictures in the monster's mouth. Talk about what you are doing, 'I am feeding the monster **cake**'.
- Ask your child to feed the monster one of the food items e.g. 'feed monster the **ice cream'**. Repeat with other food items but make sure there is always a choice of food items.

2 key word instructions:

- Lay out 3 pictures of big foods and 3 pictures of little foods (same foods as the big ones). For example: big cake, little cake, big ice cream, little ice cream, big sausage, little sausage).
- Show your child what to do by posting different food pictures in the monster's mouth. Talk about what you are doing, 'I am feeding the monster the **big cake'**.
- Ask your child to feed the monster one of the food items e.g. 'feed the monster the <u>little apple</u>, 'feed the monster the <u>big ice cream'</u>. Make sure there is always a choice of both the little and big picture of at least 2 different foods.

3 key word instructions:

- Lay out 3 pictures of big foods and 3 pictures of little foods (same foods as the big ones).
- Hold up both the spotty and the stripy monster.
- Show your child what to do by posting different food pictures in the monster's mouths. Talk about what you are doing, 'I am feeding the <u>spotty</u> monster the <u>big apple</u>, 'I am feeding the <u>stripy monster</u> the <u>little cake'</u>.
- Ask your child to fee the monster one of the food items e.g. 'feed the monster the little sausage'.

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