

Words in a sentence This refers to a child's ability to understand that sentences are made up of smaller pieces called **words**. Before a child can learn to read, there are some basic skills that he or she needs to know. Although to an adult, understanding that there are words in a sentence may seem obvious, it is a critical first step in teaching children to read. VERY IMPORTANT TO NOTE this is NOT an exercise in counting. Children simply need to understand that sentences are made up of words.

Example: Can the child recognize that there are four words in the following sentence (NOT COUNT, BUT RECOGNIZE BY DEMONSTRATION):

My dog is friendly. (My dog is friendly)

Have the children jump every time they hear a word. Watch to see if they jump four times. You can have children put coins in a cup every time they say a word but jumping can be a way to have children release some energy.