The Blue Stool

Foundation English · Teaching preview · Edition 1.0

One problem can lead to two different requests. Read this scene together, then try the activity on the next page.

Before the rain

At breakfast, rain ticked on the kitchen window. Nia pushed one arm into her yellow raincoat. The other sleeve flopped under her chair like an empty sock. Her zip caught halfway up.

Her brother Bo was building a tower from toast crusts. Nia held up the little metal zip. ‘Bo, can you help with my zip?’

Bo put his toast down. ‘Hold the bottom still,’ he said. Nia pinched it between two fingers. Together they pulled the zip right to the top.

‘Now you look like a banana,’ Bo said. Nia wiggled. Then she lifted a crust from the plate and put it on top of his tower. The tower stayed up until they both laughed.

Try the same request at school

A sample home activity

Read the paired line

At school the zip catches again. Nia asks, ‘Ms Sol, could you help me do up my coat zip?’

Ask your child what both people were asked to do. In both places Nia needed help fastening her zip. Ask what changed. The person she names changes, and she gives more detail about what she wants Ms Sol to do.

Take turns with a cup

Set out an empty cup. Pretend you are a family member. Invite your child to ask you to fill it with water. Change roles and play the teacher. Keep the job the same and try a new way to start. Your child can speak, sign or use their communication device.

Inside the full unit

The unit includes four original read-aloud scenes, a standalone parent guide, three practice workbooks, worked answers and two rounds of assessment. The second teaching session explores how an invitation changes when someone is new to a game.