

PARAGRAPHS

SAMPLE LESSON

- Skill Area:** Language Arts
- Language Stage:** Speech Emergence
- Outcome:** Students will be able to place a variety of details with a topic sentence to form a paragraph.
- Materials:** Easy, expository book on an animal; blank cards; teacher-made topic sentence cards; or if group is older, topic sentence cards developed with the students
- Procedure:** Share the book with the students. Discuss facts or ideas that the students recall from the story. Hand out blank cards and ask students to write one fact on each card. Classify facts and ask students to label the main idea of each group, i.e., what it eats, where it lives, what it likes to do, etc. Together, write a topic sentence using the classified facts as supporting details. Then, together, write a conclusion for each main idea. Each student can be responsible for writing a paragraph. Then, all paragraphs can be put together to form a book. Have students illustrate.

Note: Stress that a new paragraph is needed for each main idea.

SAMPLE LESSON

- Skill Area:** Language Arts
- Language Stage:** Speech Emergence
- Outcome:** Students will be able to recognize and identify paragraphs in text, and label the component parts (topic sentence, detail sentences, conclusion).
- Materials:** Textbook, teacher-made sentences on cards (1 topic, 3 details, 1 conclusion) to form a paragraph, additional topic and concluding sentences on cards, blank cards
- Procedure:** Using the textbook, look at a page and point out how paragraphs are indented. Practice counting the paragraphs on a page until the students are familiar with their form. Discuss the parts of a paragraph, topic sentence, body (supporting details), and conclusion. Using the prepared paragraph sentence cards, show the students how they are arranged to make a paragraph (have the cards labeled topic, detail or conclusion). Now, give each student a topic and conclusion card, along with three blank cards for details. The students need to write three detail sentences to create a paragraph.

Note: Topic sentences can come from previously-learned content area subjects.