## GOOFY SENTENCES

hat would your child think if

An orange barked to get strong.

you asked him to read this sentence?

MATERIALS

index cards
pen
rubber bands
storage box

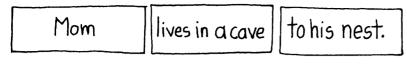
He'd probably think it was pretty funny. What would he think of an activity that consisted of constructing and reading dozens of such crazy sentences? If you guess he'd think it a great idea, then keep reading.

On page 66 there are twenty sentence beginnings, twenty sentence middles, and twenty sentence endings. Start by copying the sentence beginnings on index cards (you can use half or quarter cards for this purpose). Mix up the cards. Then keep them together with a rubber band. Copy the sentence middles, mix them up, and bind them, too. Do the same thing with the sentence endings. Now you have three piles of cards.

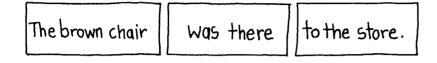
When you're ready to play, place the cards—beginnings, middles, and endings—in front of the child. Explain that in this game he'll get to create and read goofy sentences. All he has to do is pick three cards—one from each pile—put them together, and read the results. Sometimes these parts fit together sensibly:

Mom		was in a hurry	to go to work.		
More often they don't:					
Mom		lives in a cove	with milk.		
or					
Mom		flies quickly	with milk.		

Sometimes the fit is not at all fitting:



or



These nonsentences don't ruin the game. Just shrug them off. "Boy, that doesn't make sense at all. It's not even a sentence."

When you and your child have finished goofing off for the day, wrap up the sentence parts in their rubber bands and store them for another time. These twenty beginnings, twenty middles, and twenty endings allow a child to create 8,000 different sentence combinations. That should keep him giggling for a while. While he giggles he'll get lots of practice reading words and phrases. Feel free to add your own sentence parts. Your child might have some good ideas, too. Just combine new cards with the originals and see what goofy sentences pop up.

By the way, this game also gives a child an early taste for sentence structure and grammar. Later in his school work he'll learn about sentences in a more exacting way, but this is a nice beginning.

BEGINNINGS	MIDDLES	ENDINGS
The little boy	rode a bicycle	to the store.
Dad	ran from the house	to catch a bus.
Mom	was in a hurry	to go to work.
My teacher	waited	to get my work.
The horse	ran through the woods	to get to the ranch.
My cat	wanted	to catch a mouse.
The dog	barked	to scare a stranger.
The brown chair	was there	so I could sit down.
The big lion	slept in the woods	while I ran away.
A baby elephant	looked for his mom	in the jungle.
My friend	ate apples	to get strong.
An orange	grows	in the sun.
The cat	cleans himself	by licking.
The bear	lives in a cave	to keep warm.
The boat	sails down the river	without stopping.
The woman	opens the door	to the house.
The man	catches fish	in the river.
The sofa	is on the floor	by the window.
Му сир	is filled	with milk.
The bird	flies quickly	to his nest.