

## Defining Complex Ideas with Statues



**Statues** is a great tool to try out when your child asks you to define a complex word or concept for them.

“Mom, what does community mean?” or “Dad, what’s a legislature?” We’ve all been there. We find ourselves making up the simplest definition we can, and then cross our fingers that some piece of information has made its way into our child’s mind.

This is a great moment to use Statues, or using your bodies to make physical representation of a concept. The approach will:

- 1) Help your child deepen their understanding of the word or concept.
- 2) Help you see what, exactly, your child has taken in about this new information.
- 3) To really geek out on learning theory...

**It might go something like this:**

**Child:** “Mom, what does community mean?”

**Parent gives it their best shot:** “Well... it’s a group of people who are connected in some kind of way. They could be neighbors, or people who all go to the same school, or people who are all interested in the same sport or game.”

**Parent then introduces Statues:** “Let’s use our bodies to make a statue of what community means to us!” *[You could pause here to say a few words about what a statue is. For example: A statue is still, a statue is silent, and a statue uses your whole body.]*

**Parent:** “Let’s try it. Make a statue in 3,2,1 Go!” *[We find this works best if you both do it together.]*

Follow up this game with questions that are geared towards learning why your child made the choices they made in their statue. Ask open ended questions like:

*What did you create?*

*Why did you choose this statue?*

*What did your statue remind you of?*

**Tips:**

- It can be fun to have your child answer these questions about the statue you made, instead of just their own.
- The beauty of a statue is that it can be interpreted differently by different people. Statues are often not literal, but can represent complex ideas or feelings.

Created by MINDPOP