



Knowing as Young Learners: The Power of Stories

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Welcome

- Stories & Young Learners
- Gender & Early Literacy
- Photos in Booking Making as a Way of Knowing



Before we begin... ...share your story with someone.

- Find someone sitting by you
- Take 1 minute each to share your story
 - ...who you are?
 - or, how you got here today?...





Stories...are a way of knowing... ...help us make sense of our world...



In EY Classrooms other forms may include...

- Dancing
- Painting
- Constructing
- Sculpting
- Drawing
- Drama/Role Play
- Book making!
- Etc...



Storytelling & recording stories

- part of human history & prehistory
- universal
- real or imaginary way of knowing the world





Let the stories begin...







...beginning of the child as his/ her own narrator...

NARRATIVE DEVELOPMENT: relating the events of a story

Cognitive Development

Social Development

Emotional Development



Stories & Play young learners in the classroom

- Tells us & peers about their thoughts and emotions
- About their creativity, thinking skills, & collaboration
 - Ability to put thoughts & emotions into words and actions





"Nothing that happens in a classroom is as interesting for a child as what another child says."

-V. Paley



Collecting children's stories

 Strengthens ability to ask & answer questions, enhancing early literacy skills

Connecting stories

- paves way for making friends
- later reading comprehension

- connecting books to selves, other books & the world

Nurturing stories

 opportunities practice social, emotional & cognitive skills needed for collaboration, creativity & critical thinking



Children's Stories & Play as Early Literacy Motivators & Activators



- Story Dictation
- Drawings
- Photos-Videos
- Book making





Gender & Early Literacy

"Research shows boys are having trouble reading...

...biological & sociological reasons...

But the good news is that research also shows that boys will read — if they are given reading that interests them."

> - Jon Scieszka www.guysread.com





Gender & Early Literacy

What researchers 'generally' agree on comparing boys and girls:

- boys speech develops more slowly compared to girls (evens out by ages 4-5)
- boys take longer to learn to read than girls
- boys read less and are less enthusiastic about it
- boys have more trouble understanding narrative texts than girls
- boys become better at absorbing informational texts than girls

Whitmire explains, an extra emphasis on literacy in the early years sets many male learners back from the get-go...and boys are at a developmental disadvantage when it comes to early literacy challenges.







Recent neuroscience research...

 different regions of the brain develop <u>in different sequences</u> in different sexes, eg. language

http://www.nassp.org/tabid/3788/default.aspx? topic=closing the achievement gap teaching to gender differences http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/03/080303120346.htm



Biological reason:

boys born with smaller language centers in brain, & larger spatial centers

Sociological reason:

parents talk differently to boys and girls; parents tend to use longer sentences, and more open-ended questions with girls



Moving on...

Moving boys stories, way of knowing language & literacy





Book Making: Drawings & Dictation





At first, inspirational sources many times are familiar Pattern Books







Narrative tells us about his way of knowing story, how he uses words to convey meaning & explore emotions



Wordless books vs. books with text



Similarities & Differences





to my house with green shoes on.



shoes, and one blue.





the spider.

THE END



Scaffolding with class books...









It begins with a story, and taking pictures...





Then selecting and sorting pictures...





Followed by lots of design planning & then gluing!





Then more sequencing ...









Adding words...

dictation & reflection

empowering all voices



Play, story making, and book making become a shared learning experience... ...of creativity, language & collaboration.

Then Panda Bear goes up into. Erik the Lion's house.



Panda Bear is walking. I think I'll visit Fick the Lio





hen Tiger loes into crikis house.





Then Erik the Lion comes home. All his friends are at his house



The text provides another kind of anchor and extension to having their voice heard, regardless the kind of learner...



...the next step in the Vygotsky ladder of language development.







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They go to look for Baby Tiger.



A story may change when retelling from pictures or 'rereading' it by themselves, but then it just takes on new meaning.







Next stage...





Encouraging boys to write *words* in meaningful ways, and read.







He snapped at a Mogauito 4





And he

climbed

on

ROCKS



THE

END



Narrative texts-Fantasy







Informational texts-reality







"Nothing that happens in a classroom is as interesting for a child as what another child says."

-V. Paley



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