

Narration



Aims and outcomes of the narration unit

- Extending vocabulary and narrative ability
- Sharing experiences with regard to feelings
- Ability to describe and relate experiences
- Ability to enjoy expressing themselves and courage to do so
- Using language creatively
- Asking for help

What it means to promote language and narrative competence

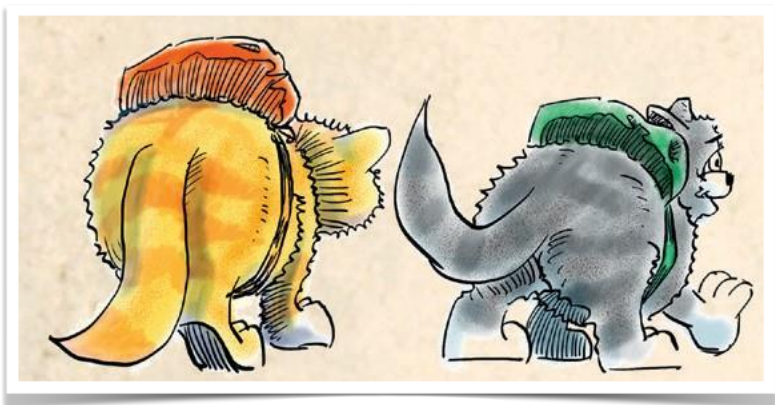
The children apply and combine different skills in storytelling exercises; these skills are necessary for retelling and re-enacting stories. Together with their teammates, the children play the roles of figures from stories or everyday experiences. This requires the application and development of social, emotional, physical, cognitive, creative, and narrative skills, which must also mesh together to be effective.

Dear parents,

In the fourth and last part of the ReSi programme for children, we will be focused on the topic of language and narrative description. The aim is to prompt and encourage the children's skills and ability and to enjoy telling stories as a common activity. The *Kindergarten* groups can select from various performance techniques that are briefly described on page 2.

The stories and tales that are performed with the children can be from picture books and fairy tales, imagined, or from the children's everyday experiences. The stories are centred around feelings and dealing with pleasant and unpleasant feelings. One aspect that is promoted is the ability to change perspectives when the experiences being represented are from imaginary or real figures. Another aspect is practicing telling their own experiences.

Linguistic-narrative skills are of great importance especially in view of the preventative objective of our children's programme. Being able to discern and express thoughts and feelings, possessing a vocabulary and process to do so, and finally daring to speak and share about emotional and rational experiences are sophisticated developmental steps and important protective factors. The children realise that relating their experiences provides relief and that it is always worthwhile to open up to and get help from a trusted person.



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Narrative promoting techniques in the ReSi children's programme

Puppet theatre: Stories or individual scenes are enacted using crafted figures on stages that were also constructed by the group. Each child takes on a role and creates their own figure. The roles are not scripted and memorised, they are imagined and improvised.

Kamishibai: Kamishibai is a traditional Japanese form of paper theatre. A story is told using painted pictorial aids - sort of like "television without electricity". The pictures are assembled in layers within a wooden frame and are successively removed while the story is told. The pictures affect the viewers without sound and support their own interior images of the story.

Tips for parents

In the following you will find a few suggestions for how you can support your child in developing linguistic-narrative skills at home.

Take note of...

...opportunities that are well suited to prompting and encouraging your child to tell stories. For example, during longer car rides, walking home from *Kindergarten*, or in the evening during a calm half hour before bedtime.

Something to try

Photographic memory: Not only stories from books are well suited to retelling. Photo albums or garlands can be an excellent memory aid for your child to help them in retelling their own everyday or special experiences. Without such aids, it can sometimes be challenging to remember details if the occasion is from further in the past. Together with your child, think about the following questions: What experience or event is recorded in the photo? Who was there? What was the sequence of things that happened? What else can your child remember associated with the experience or event?

Recording stories: If your child tells or acts out a story that they imagined or heard, you could record it as an audio or video recording, for example. Such a recording is not only fun to make - it is also an amusing remembrance for your child later in their life.