

Language and Literacy in the Digital Age

Introduction:

Storytelling is extremely beneficial to children's development. Storytelling benefits can begin from as young as pre-birth. Neaum (2012) states, one of the rich language experiences essential for language development and acquisition is reading books to babies. Storytelling aids the development of children's literacy massively. Children's reading, writing and oracy can all be developed from storytelling.

Analysis:

The storyteller told 2 children's stories, one traditionally and one digitally. The storyteller read 'The Three Little Pigs' traditionally. As visible from the beginning, the storyteller had props related to the book, in front of them. The storyteller used '3 little pigs' and a 'big bad wolf'. During the reading of the story the storyteller pointed to and moved the props at the corresponding times to the storylines. According to Stadler and Cumming Ward (2010) a study found that in the classroom the children's use of descriptive language improved as a result of the props during storytelling. By using props, the target audience of early years children, become more engaged and understanding of the story which is being told. The visual resources allow children to make connections with the story. Seeds of tellers (no date) Using particular items with a child can foster their sense of wonder, curiosity, and attentiveness. In actuality, these resources have twofold benefits: they can inspire curiosity and they can provide pedagogical support. Similarly, Sirigatti (2013: 1) suggests using puppets, parents or teachers can bring stories to life and provide children with an enhanced, enjoyable, and deeply meaningful learning experience. During the story telling the storyteller often involved the children. For example, when reading about the different materials made to build a house in the story, the reader asked the children, "What is your house made out of?". Similarly, the reader was ensuring the children understood the new vocabulary, in which they might not have heard before by describing what the words mean- or referring to a similar word, which they could've already been aware of to make the understanding easier for the children. Increasing involvement and teaching word meanings to children can enhance the benefits of shared reading for their language development. States Enni Vaahoranta, J, et al. (2019). The storyteller told both stories in a tone of voice in

which would engage the young children. They changed their tone of voice and emphasised in different aspects of the story. Tone and emphasis are key to enhancing a story when reading to children, it is important as this keeps the children's interest to the story high, states Kidmunication (2012).

Differences in the approaches:

There are many differences in the approaches of traditional and digital story telling. Digital storytelling typically has to be told in one designated spot, as if being shown on a whiteboard- big enough for children to see. This cannot be moved. Traditional story telling can be more engageable/ interesting for children, by bringing the story to life. For example, reading the children the story 'We're going on a bear hunt'. The storyteller could take the children on an adventure, exciting them and getting them thinking/ questioning about the story, then sitting the children down in an outdoor environment to read the story. The children will become a lot more engaged and interested in the story. Although Vaahtoranta et al. (2019) states both traditional storytelling and digital storystorytelling, give children opportunities to engage, by asking questions, they can both become as interactive as the storyteller makes them. Traditional storytelling is also a good way to get the children involved, Wilkinson, K. (2019) states by simply asking children to help turn a page, they learn what a 'page' is. Children often enjoy reading the same book multiple times, when giving children the opportunity to read the same book multiple times they are more likely to engage with it as they enjoy it- this teaches children reading is enjoyable. Traditional story books can be interactive when they involve flaps, the anticipation of wondering what is behind spikes children's engagement. Picture books are an amazing way to begin children's engagement into stories, Neaum (2012) states picture books give children the opportunity to interact, the storyteller can ask the children questions such as, "What do you think is happening here?". This aids children's development of curiosity and imagination. Digital storytelling is also an ideal way to gain children's involvement. It has been demonstrated that digital storytelling is a useful tool for teachers to support their students' grasp of the material, participate in discussions in the classroom, and engage in discussion, states O'Bryne, W et al (2018).

Promoting children's oracy, reading or writing:

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Storytelling is beneficial to developing children's oracy, reading, and writing. In the UK, almost 25% of four and five-year-old children are unable to comprehend how to speak in whole sentences when they first enter school stated, Crerar (2018). This is why practitioners

role to develop children's oracy skills is crucial, this can be aided through storytelling. Vaahtoranta et al. (2019) states that using an approach of 'elaborate storytelling' draws children's attention to certain word, by providing a more in detailed explanation of the individual words, to support children's vocabulary learning. As well as studies showing by retelling and acting out stories children's narrative skills improve. Children's development of oracy and writing often comes before their reading development. Schwartz, S and Sparks, S (2019) states in an article 'How do kids learn to read? What the science says Similar to learning to talk, reading is an innate process. According to this concept, children will pick up reading on their own if parents and teachers surround them with quality books. Toddlers pick up language by imitating adult noises, listening to those sounds, and associating those sounds with meanings, this shows the importance of storytelling to young children, starting off as simple as first word books. Children can associate the pictures and the way the storyteller sounds out the words to be able to pick it up themselves. Neaum (2012) states, one of the rich language experiences essential for language development and acquisition is reading books to babies.

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Promoting children's digital literacy skills:

University of Houston (no date) state Children who utilise digital storytelling gain a solid foundation in a variety of forms of literacy, such as information literacy, visual literacy, technological literacy, and media literacy. O'Bryne, W et al (2018) states In early childhood education settings, teaching children in digital storytelling may appear intimidating, but the main emphasis should be on student learning objectives.

Conclusion:

To conclude, storytelling is massively beneficial to children's language and literacy development. As Neaum (2012) states, one of the rich language experiences essential for language development and acquisition is reading books to babies. This suggests the storytelling from the age of babies, can help develop children's language skills. Digital and traditional storytelling can engage children into learning. Vaahtoranta et al. (2019) states both traditional storytelling and digital storytelling, give children opportunities to engage, by asking questions, they can both become as interactive as the storyteller makes them. As well as Children's development of oracy and writing often comes before their reading development.

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