Narrative Intervention

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Narrative Structure: Teaching “Once Upon a Time”

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The Plan

• Why narratives matter
• What a narrative is – and is not
• Three ways of looking at narrative
• Teaching through literature
• Pictography as a representation tool
• Some tx activities and procedures
• A whole-part-whole tx framework
And some stories!

For More Ideas and Information

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Why Stories Matter

• Way of thinking
• Maintaining community
• Understanding people
• Bridge between orality and literacy
• Teaching language and literacy through stories
• The magic of story

The landscapes of action and of consciousness
(Bruner, 1986)

Common Core State Standards (2010) for K-4 Narrative Structure

K Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to narrate a single event or several loosely-linked events, in the order in which the events occurred, and provide a reaction to what happened.

http://www.corestandards.org/

GR 1 Write narratives which recount two or more sequenced events, with some details regarding what happened, temporal words to signal event order, and some sense of closure.

GR 2 Write narratives which recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, with details of actions, thoughts, and feelings; and temporal words and closure.
Narrative Intervention

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Northern Mich SL Alliance & TBA ISD
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Using Narratives in Tx
- As a goal or target of treatment
  - Narrative structure
- As a context or vehicle for other tx goals
  -
  -
- Oral language skill with a developmental pattern involving print and literacy, part of school curriculum, and fun to teach!

A narrative is... a story
Yesterday, I really messed up...
Once upon a time, a beautiful princess...

• A recapitulation of a past event
• Real or imaginary
• Told with speaker perspective
• With episodic organization

A narrative is not...
• A narrative is not a script nor a procedure
  ✗ Typically, people mess up when...
  ✗ The way you avoid messing up is...

• A narrative is not just a commentary nor an annal...
  ✗ He shoots, he scores...
  ✗ He did this, this, this, then that.

Three Ways to Describe Narrative Structure
- Narrative is a complex discourse event
- What is a good narrative? A poor narrative?
- Beyond vocabulary, grammar, and information?
  1. Episodic structure or story grammar
  2. Cohesion or how sentences link
  3. Expressive elaboration or story art

1. Episodic or Story Grammar Structure
Learning more about a familiar narrative analysis
### Story Grammar Analysis

- One type of episodic analysis
- How propositions related for goal-directed problem-solution units
- Describes an agent's goals, the efforts to achieve goals, and the outcomes
- Originally a description of mental schema for representing and retrieving events (Mandler & Johnson, 1977; Stein & Glenn, 1979)

### An Episode

**Narrative = Setting + Episodes**

**Episode = Problem + something to show agent is trying to solve it + Solution**

1. The rock fell onto my leg ⇒ Then I was free ?
2. The rock fell onto my leg ⇒ I tried to push it off ⇒ Then I was free
3. I lost my earring ⇒ I was so upset ⇒ I never found it

### Elements of an Episode

- [Setting = Person, Place, Time, Conditions]
- Complication or Problem = Initiating Event that needs to be resolved
- Motivating State = Emotional internal response to complication; feelings
- Plan = Cognitive internal response to complication; thoughts
- Attempt = Behavior to resolve complication
- Consequence or Resolution = Outcome of attempt to resolve complication
- Reaction = Emotional internal response to resolution; more feelings

### Story Grammar Elements Causally Linked

Complications cause motivating states which cause plans which cause attempts which cause consequences which cause reactions, which are the end of the story...

OR

consequences cause other complications which cause...

And so the story continues...stay tuned!

### Level of Episodic Complexity

1. Incomplete - no ending to the episode
2. Abbreviated - no middle to the episode
3. Complete - 3 parts: complication + internal response or attempt + consequence
4. Complex - multiple attempts
5. Elaborated - a variety of motivations, plans, attempts, reactions...
6. Interactive - episodes from two perspectives
Episodic Structure - Which is Which?

a. The rock fell onto my leg I tried to push it off I freed myself
b. I lost my earring I was so upset I never found it
c. The rock fell on my leg and trapped me I wanted to get free The end
d. I lost my earring I never found it
e. I couldn’t find my earrings I searched all over my room. I looked in my sister’s room. I looked in the mirror ⇒ I found them!
f. I lost my earring ⇒ Oh well. I never liked it anyway.

Prior to Episodic Structure

• Preschoolers and some schoolage children lack episodic structure
• The narratives seem more like descriptions or lists than stories
• Even if they intend to “tell a story”

Pre-Episodic Sequences

• Description Sequence
  –
  –
  are at a lake, that’s all.
• Action Sequence
  –
  – First, he jumped in the river, then he got out, then he dried himself and went home.
• Reaction Sequence
  –
  – e.g., She drove fast on an icy road. She slid and went into the ditch.

Some Developmental Expectations

1. Preschoolers are generally pre-episodic
2. Complete episodes achieved by 8 years of age
3. Filling in motivations and attempts to elaborate episodes takes longer

(Boivin & Sutton-Smith, 1977; Peterson & McCabe, 1983)

But...

• Elicitation tasks can affect performance:
  – Scenic pictures
  – Picture books
  – Writing
  – Inspiration
• Instruction can affect performance:
  – Elaborated episodes can be taught in structured tasks even in kindergarten (e.g., Petersen et al., 2010; Spencer & Bloum, 2010)
  – Possible with support and effort, but may not generalize
A Boy, A Dog, A Frog, and A Friend

One day a boy and a dog and a frog and a friend were fishing.
The boy caught one fish.
The dog caught two.
and the frog caught none.

One Frog Too Many

Once there was a boy.
He loved to play in the pond right across from his house.
One day he was playing in the pond.
And he found a frog.
And he took it home and put it in his room and went to eat dinner.
He went back to his room.
And there were frogs jumping everywhere.
And he kept all the frogs.

Frog, Where are You? - 1

Once there was a boy, a dog, and a frog.
Once the frog left.
And he went into the forest.
And the boy kept looking for him.
And then finally the frog came out.
And they all went home.

Frog, Where are You? - 2

A boy had a frog.
The frog jumped off.
He went into some trees.
In a minute he was no longer in sight.
The boy called and called for him.
And then he saw that his frog had took a scary path.
So he decided to take the scary path.
So he took the scary path.
And it was very, very creepy.
Then he saw something jumping.
He grabbed it.
And it was his frog.

Frog and a Friend

There was a boy
And he had a frog.
Then he lost his frog.
He looked downstairs.
But he was not there.
So he looked in his room.
The window was opened.
So he went outside.
He did not find him.
So he looked by a pond.
Then he heard a sound.
So he went to a hollow log.
He found two frogs.

What to Look For in Episodic Analysis

1. Is there a complication that bothers someone in the story?
2. If no, then is this pre-episodic story organized descriptively or chronologically?
3. If yes, then what is the best episode present—incomplete, abbreviated, complete, or elaborated?
4. Which episodic elements (e.g., motivating state, plan, attempt) are present?
5. Are the elements expressed explicitly or are you inferring a lot?
2. Discourse Cohesion

The glue between the sentences

Cohesion

- Ties spans of utterances together into a unified text
- Applies to any discourse unit, not just narrative
- Involves sentence structure and word choice, and relationship to preceding and succeeding utterances
- Sometimes overlaps with vocabulary (e.g., clear word choice) and grammar (e.g., conjunction cohesion)
- Serves to provide both clear communication and sophisticated composition

Cohesive Devices

1. Conjunction cohesion
2. Lexical cohesion
3. Structural parallelism
4. Ellipsis
5. Reference cohesion

Conjunctive Cohesion

- Additive (and, also, additionally)
- Temporal (then, next, before)
- Causal (because, consequently, therefore)
- Adversative (but, however, although)
- Same connectives as at the syntactic level, but link meaning across rather than within sentences

Lexical Cohesion

- Repeating a word across sentences
- Very basic unity (frog - frog - frog)
- Substitution cohesion involves providing synonyms (frog - toad) and taxonomic relations (frog - amphibian)

Parallel Structure Cohesion

- Parallel structures involves repeating the syntactic structure of a sentence
  
  I have a lot to do: go to the store, go to the post office, and go to the office.

- Substitution and parallel structures are more a matter of narrative quality than clarity
- Parallel structures can be effective narrative art, but may also be monotonous or unsophisticated
**Ellipsis**

- We don’t talk in complete sentences
- Omission of an item retrievable from elsewhere in the text
  
  May I go to the store? You may.
- Frequent in conversation
- Provides a colloquial tone to written composition
  
  A dog is a canine. So is a wolf.
  A dog is a canine. A wolf is also a canine.

**Reference Cohesion**

- Clearly cohesion, not grammar or vocabulary
- Can the listener/reader understand to whom the speaker/writer is referring?
- Includes pronouns (Susan-she), articles (a/the, this/that), and comparators (better than)
- Ambiguous pronoun use is undesirable, but common, especially in oral exchanges
- No set rules, must judge when a reasonable audience would become confused

**What to Look For in Cohesion Analysis**

1. Does the story hang together clearly?
2. Are there helpful connecting words like first, next, however?
3. Is it clear to which characters the pronouns are referring?
4. Can reference be made clearer by changing more pronouns to nouns?
5. Are the incomplete sentences appropriate ellipses?

**Story Art**

The magic of story

**Story Art Analysis**

- AKA magic of story
- audience
  
  How the emotional high point or climax is achieved
- No single well-recognized analysis of story art
- Will describe using elaborated expression analysis

**Telling a Story that Matters**

- An 8-year-old girl provides a factual recount of the event. After being stung, she said she “just went in the house and had to have something on it”.
- A 5-year-old girl describes her response to the bee sting as, “I screamed and I screamed and I cried and I cried”. She then detailed how three adults had to carry her into the house to recover.
  
  (Peterson & McCabe, 1983, p. 30)
Measuring What Makes A Good Story

- One aspect?
- Ten aspects?
- Varies with the listener?
- Overall rating?
- Rating of several major aspects?
- Tallying of multiple individual elements?

Holistic Ratings

1. Weak: Description or poorly organized, uncaptivating story
2. Adequate:
   a. An event recount without a central climax
   b. A bare-bones narrative, with no elaboration
   c. A narrative without an ending
   d. A confusing narrative with strong descriptive elements
3. Good: Captivating story that contained problems and resolutions, even with some organizational problems
4. Strong: Easily understood narrative with clear, integrated story line, elaboration, interesting word choices, & captivating features like climax, ending twist, or personal voice

(McFadden & Gillam, 1996)

Holistic versus Discrete Analyses

- What does a holistic rating tell you?
- What analyses does it overlap with?
- What else do you need to know to determine +/- and plan tx?

A Discrete Picture of Story Art -- Elaborated Expression Analysis

- Ukrainetz et al. (2009) in JSLHR
- Trying to get at the missed details of good storytelling
- The elaborated language of artful storytelling
- Beyond basic vocabulary, syntax, cohesion, and episodic structure
- List of elements organized into 3 categories of story parts with point scoring

The icing on the cake

Elaborated Expression Categories and Elements

1. Appendages (story signals)
   - Introducer (there was…)
   - Abstract (This story is about…)
   - Theme (He was late again)
   - Coda (And so he never again…)
   - Ender (The end)

2. Orientations (setting plus)
   - Character names (Dave)
   - Character roles & relations (and his pet frog)
   - Personality attributes (who got in trouble a lot)
   - External conditions (one windy, cold day)

The Infinite Category of Evaluations

3. Evaluations (emphasis)
   - Modifiers (a bit, quickly)
   - Phrases and expressions (a wee bit, rather quickly)
   - Repetition (very, very quickly, a long long time)
   - Direct dialogue (Frog said ‘I am scared!’)
   - Internal state words (sad, confused, relieved)
   - Plus exaggeration, sound effects, gestures…

Where are the evaluations concentrated in the story?
= Climax
High Point Structure

Plus the climactic moment and story shape
Are you just confused?
Or is it ho-hum?
Or are you left hanging on the cliff?

- Disorganized
- Flat
- End-at-high-point
- Classic

What to Look For in Story Art Analysis

1. Overall, does this sound like a story and is it enjoyable?
2. Are there appendages, orientations, and evaluations?
3. Which elements are present and which are missing?
4. Which are used well and which need strengthening?
5. Which of the weaker elements would be simple to teach?

Frog, Where Are You?

A boy had a frog.  
The frog jumped off.  
He went into some trees.  
In a minute he was no longer in sight.  
The boy called and called for him.  
And then he saw that his frog had took a scary path.  
So he decided to take the scary path.  
So he took the scary path.  
And it was very, very creepy.  
Then he saw something jumping.  
He grabbed it.  
And it was his frog.

Frog and a Friend

There was a boy  
And he had a frog.  
Then he lost his frog.  
He looked downstairs.  
But he was not there.  
So he looked in his room.  
The window was opened.

So he went outside.  
He did not find him.  
So he looked by a pond.  
Then he heard a sound.  
So he went to a hollow log.  
He found two frogs.

Finding Cohesion and Art

The Revenge

One day the ants had to weared tras.  
But they didn’t were it.  
They won’ted revenge any way.  
They bet Miss Mackle.  
They bet Sidny.  
They bet Doug.  
They bet Harry.  
And they bet Mrs. Foxworth.  
And they amost died.  
And amost the ol scad got it.  
The school doctor amost got sik.  
Ther moms and dads amost got sik vrom ther kids.  
The hol school got sik.  
They amost dyed because the hol school was sik.  
Everyone tru up bocne they were so sik.  
8yr old
Alien Story

One beautiful foggy Tuesday morning Michael and Sonia they were brother and sister. So they woke up. And they decided to go for a walk. Since it was summer they loved the nice breeze and the weather. So they decided to go out to a forest just to watch and sit down and talk and enjoy the weather. And then they hear some noises. They hear people talking. They hear things moving. So they go out.

Alien Cont’d.

And they go behind a bush. And they look. And they can’t believe their eyes. They see what they think is a spaceship and aliens walking out. But then she stopped and thought what happens if they’re bad. What happens if something does happen to me?

They both went home and forgot about the whole thing. But every single day they went back into the forest to check if the alien/s were still there.

Evidence3-based Intervention

E3BP = Combine (1) best available research evidence, (2) clinical craft, and (3) client preference to guide practice (Dollaghan, 2007)

- Research in narrative intervention “is at an emerging stage of evidence” (Petersen, 2011, p. 209)
- Part of challenge is the many ways of using narratives as target and context of intervention

Narrative Research

- Petersen (2011) syst review of controlled grp tx studies for ch with lang impair = 9 studies with mod to large effect sizes across vocab, grammar, & narrative structure
- Similar results for Cirrin & Gillam (2008); Hoffman (2009)
- Gillam, Gillam & Reece (2012)
  - 16 6-9yr LIs randomly assigned to CLI vs DLI
  - CLI = narrative, literature-based tx
  - DLI = discrete skill, games tx
  - CLI > DLI on sg and syntax on CELF & TNL

Quality Indicators of Care

- Can also consider research evidence for quality indicators of care in addition to specific treatment skills, procedures, and activities
- Provide treatment that is
  - Explicit, intensive, and supportive (Torgesen et al., 2004, Berninger et al., 2003)
  - Intensive, focuses attention, presents multiple trials, vary task complexity systematically, and reward progress” (Gillam et al., 2001; Gillam et al., 2008)
Key Elements of Quality Intervention

- Attention & engagement
- Repeated opportunities for skill learning
- Intensity of instruction
- Systematic support of targeted skills
- Explicit skill focus

Narrative Intervention

- Skills taught in Context through Whole-Part-Whole Framework
  1. Whole - Children’s Literature & Telling Stories
  2. Tool - Pictography
  3. Part - Focused Skill Activities
  4. Whole-Part-Whole: Treatment Units

Before We Continue, Other Tx Ideas...

- See Petersen & Spencer’s “Story Champs”
- Sets of equivalent customized grade-leveled stories that repeatedly present particular vocabulary, grammar, and story grammar structure
- With pictures, story grammar icons, and pictographic notes for teaching narrative retell and generation
- In repeated cycle of scaffolded retell and generation
- See Petersen et al. (2010) and Spencer & Slocum (2010)

http://www.languagedynamicsgroup.com/research.html

Narratives for Language RTI

- Petersen & Spencer’s Story Champs Narrative Program
- For dynamic assessment in tx or in RTI Tier II
- Test-teach-test model
- Pre/post score sheet and scripted brief instruction for story grammar structure
- No individualized tx goals
- Check on amount of change and support to id children needing language intervention

Another Story Grammar Marker

- Commercially-produced story grammar icons
- Braidy, the story braid: beads on a string with a head to represent episodic elements
- With workbooks and instructor manuals
- Appears to be a useful source of materials and activities
- at http://www.mindwingconcepts.com

1. Children’s Literature
Why Storybooks?

- Reading and guided discussion of storybooks with follow-up activities → better story retelling, emergent reading, book concepts, and story comprehension (Morrow, O’Connor, & Smith 1990)
- Stories often contain multiple examples of target skill
- No need to “level” books for spoken sharing
- Storybooks present types of story grammar structure
- Cohesion is present in all stories but some are good examples of particular cohesive devices
- The many ways of story art lead to “the pleasure of a good book”

Brown Bear, Brown Bear

- Description sequences of patterned seeing
- Story art in patterned sentences, simple observations, bold illustrations, and circular thematic line
- Cohesion primarily in terms of parallel structures and lexical repetition
- Patterning and verse allow young children to manage extended story turns

All By Myself

- *All By Myself* is an action sequence from getting up in the morning through to going to bed at night
- Cohesion mainly through the parallel structure of “I can.” Add cohesive temporal connectors for a clearer action sequence
**Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day**

- Repeated reactive sequence and some incomplete episodes:
  - The trials and tribulations of one very bad day
  - Reactions and internal motivations, but no solutions
- Story art:
  - The long compound sentences
  - Short parallel sentences
  - Refrain “terrible, horrible, no good, very bad” day
  - Thoughts of Australia

**Mushroom in the Rain**

- Multiple short complete episodes on requesting permission for shelter
- Pronoun cohesion
- Wet words, conditional verbs, and peer interactions are possible targets for intervention

**Frog Goes to Dinner**

- Repeated attempts to solve a problem, in both stories
- Vocabulary dealing with instruments, food, clothing, and facial expressions
- Story art through humorous happenings
- Detailed pictures allow many possibilities
- Scope for the imagination through wordless aspect

**Sheep in a Jeep**

Illustrated by Margot Apple
**Sheep in a Jeep**

- Verse story about the misadventures of six sheep in a jeep
- Complex episode: Three conjoined accidents and multiple attempts to solve
- Simple discourse, easy to see the episodes
- Narrative art: rhyming lines and humor

**A Promise is a Promise**

- A riveting story about a modern Inuit girl who lies to her mother and then must deal with a promise told to the fearsome Quallupilluit who live under the sea ice
- Series of episodes with multiple attempts to solve embedded in larger problem of the lie
- Story art in descriptive language, refrain, and tension around the problem

**Mama, Tell Me a Story**

- Topic association style:
  - One topic generates another
  - Often co-constructed
  - A common understanding of events and characters with a brief reference stimulating a flood of memories

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2. Pictography

**A Story Notation Strategy**
Pictographic Planning for Scary Visitor Story

Purpose of Pictography
- Quick, easy, flexible, temporary preservation of story content
- Because:
  - Stories and procedures are long and complex
  - And:
    - Recording is difficult to view
    - Writing is slow & difficult
    - Drawing is slow & limited

Format
- Stickwriting
- Quick and easy
- 3-6 event clusters
- Left to right
- Directional arrows
- Top to bottom
- Period

Attractive Features
- Low-tech, no cost
- Independent child use
- Quick and easy to learn and use
- Inclusive, pull-out, individual, & group
- Wide age range
- Flexible applications

Student Pictography for Frog in a Restaurant Story

Teaching Pictography
- Incidental modeling in small groups as stories are composed
- More formal pictography lesson in a classroom setting
- “Quick and easy”
- Temporal representation
- Critical element representation
- Event chunking (then, next, but...)

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A Pictography Lesson

1. Story prediction from picture vs. pictography
2. Discuss quick & easy, not-art, just-enough, key element, spatial representation
3. Dictate sequence, student retells
4. Show place as a drafting tool in composition process
5. Model longer pictographic story
6. Students plan thematic story using pictography

Pictography to Dictation

The bell rings and the boy leaves school. He sees his father drive by and waves. Then he meets a friend in the street. They go to his house to make popcorn and watch TV.

A Narrative and Procedure Teaching Tool

- Coherent sequential retelling
- Content revision and extension
- Facilitating a content focus
- Complex story structure
- Word insertions
- Sentential-level limitations

Empirical Basis

  - Various quantitative and descriptive evidence
  - 2nd gr, repeated measures experimental
  - Pictog > writing or drawing
  - Length and quality

Teaching Story Structure: Writing

- Use pictography as a rough draft
- Use sharing time as revising time
- Make revising changes to pictography
- Translate pictography into cooperative writing
- Edit cooperative writing
- Illustrate good copy
- Publish and share

Applications

- Modeling
- Dramatic scripts
- Story recall and comprehension
- Drafts in the composition process
- Cooperative composition
- Moving into written plans
3. Focused Skill Activities

- Telling Stories
- Story grammar
- Cohesion
- Story art

a. Telling Stories

- Sequencing an event
- Beginning, middle, end
- From description to action sequences
- From shared to independent storytelling

Helping Young Children Tell Stories

- Simplify the story and make it repeated and predictable
  - Action Sequence: beginning, middle, end
    - First the ant, then the other animals, then the sun came out.
  - Complete Episode: model 3 parts repeatedly
    - He was so wet, he asked to get under the mushroom, the others squeezed over and let him in.

Then Child Retells with Pictography

- For young children (preK-K), performance with implicit structure
- Clinician pictography
- Shared child pictography for young children
Narrative Intervention

b. Story Grammar Instruction

- Base objectives on a developmental sequence
- Move children from pre-episodic to episodic structure
- Move children from basic to elaborated episodes
- Terminology and analysis of story grammar

The Basic Approach

- Children’s literature or the SLP’s oral stories as models and inspiration
- Analyze episodic structure in stories
- Create parallel stories with pictography
- Turn into oral performance or written compositions

Teaching Story Grammar: Analysis

1. Brainstorm and web parts of a story
2. Story grammar prediction from book cover
3. Read story and stop at intervals to fill in the chart
4. Review the chart after the story

The Story Grammar Analysis Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structure</th>
<th>Predict</th>
<th>Episode 1</th>
<th>Episode 2</th>
<th>Episode 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Setting</td>
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<td>Complication</td>
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<td>Internal Response</td>
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<td>Attempt</td>
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<td>Outcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reaction</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Teaching Story Grammar: Creation

- Motivation and mood from bookreading
- Thematic story based on the book
- Requirement to provide target story structure
- Pictography as the planning tool
- Cooperative groups
- Oral sharing of stories

Teaching Story Structure: Telling or Writing

- Use pictography as a rough draft
- Use sharing time as revising time
- Make revising changes to pictography and episodic structure
- Orally present from pictography
- Translate pictography into writing
- Review performance on episodic structure

c. Teaching Cohesion - Clear Reference

- An essential element of cohesion is clear reference
- The important aspect is not whether the correct pronoun was used (morphosyntax)
- But whether the pronoun clearly referred to a prior or upcoming entity (cohesion)

Teaching Cohesion

- Audiotape and writing preservation
- Pictography will need word insertions
- Writing process and mini-lesson as it occurs
- Specific pre-planned cohesion instruction

Cohesion Lesson

- Identify problematic device in student writing or speaking
- Discuss purpose with student
- Identify device in literature
- Identify and improve device in SLP writing or speaking
- Improve use in student writing or speaking

Reference Cohesion with Mushroom in the Rain

- One day an ant was caught in the rain. "Where can I hide?" he wondered. He saw a tiny mushroom ... But the rain came down harder and harder.
- We just read about an ant. Here the author says “ant” to let us know who the first character is. Then the author uses the pronoun “he.” How many times does the author use “he”? Is 4 times okay? Is this confusing?
Improving Pronoun Reference

There once was an owl who tried to make a home in a hole in a tree. It couldn't fit. It was too big. So it asked it to make the hole bigger. It tried, but it couldn't. So it asked it to help. It tried to help, but it was in a hurry. It needed a hole to lay its eggs. Then they came along. It asked them to help. He stood on his shoulders. He reached up high with his pocket knife. He dug out more space in the hole. He peered in and thought that was a comfy, safe spot for his new friend...

The Pleasure of a Good Book

- Starts with children’s literature
- At the outset
  - Pointing out the title
  - How the story grabs your interest from the beginning...
- As the story is read
  - Word choices, Word repetitions
  - Parallel structures, Sentence structure
  - Dialogue...
- But then choose a focus, don’t try to teach all the good stuff

Classic Story Plot Shape

- Suspenseful stories, Campfire stories...
- Classic story shape, like a hill
  - A gradual buildup to the climax
  - How descriptive words and repetitions help build excitement (He was very very scared. He was terrified...)
  - A clear resolution that brings together the story elements & allows everyone to breathe again
  - Story voice intonation and exclamatory dialogue add tension

The Basic Approach to Artful Story-making

- Building onto basic stories
- Frog Where Are You
- Pictography for overall event structure
- Or a few illustrations for a picture sequence
- Or a previously created story
- Words notated on each picture or pictographic event
- Choose a few techniques to improve story art

Four Story Art Techniques

- We have 4 frog stories that we have made. We can make these stories better by improving the beginning, the middle, and the end

1. B: A **title** that gives the main idea of the story
2. B: Repeating that idea in the story: **theme**
3. B: Something about the character: **personality feature**
4. M: Repeating and combining words at the exciting part of the story: **climax**
5. E: A story ending about what the characters learned: **coda**
Keep a Focus – Starting a Story

- Today, we are going to practice story beginnings. We are going to make up good beginnings for each story.

Curiosity Almost Killed the Frog (TITLE)
Once there was a boy who had a pet frog. His frog was always curious (PERSONALITY). The boy was afraid that this curiosity would get the frog in trouble. He was right, one day curiosity almost killed his frog (THEME).

Another Artful Focus – Building Tension

- Tension is built through the search by making the boy progressively more concerned and frustrated.
- Using known vocabulary more effectively.
- WORD REPS – repeating modifiers: he was very very scared
- repeating verbs: he ran faster and faster
- EXPRESSIONS – Expanded phrases by combining known words: even more worried, very scared,
- Similes: when knocked over a cliff by a deer, the boy is tossed in the air like X: a rag, like a toy, like a leaf.

The End of a Good Story

- More than the solution to the complication
1. Find frog (consequence in story grammar)
2. Express relief (reaction element in story grammar)
3. CODA (something extra and artful)
   – Moral to the tale: Both the boy and his frog learned that curiosity is okay – but tell your friends where you are going.

4. Literature-based Treatment Units

Whole - Part - Whole
for Context + Skill Intervention
ARISE

Literature-based Treatment Units

- 4-8 weeks around a central theme and piece of literature
- Multiple activities targeting skills required for significant life activity
- Thematic unity across activities
- Whole-part-whole structure
- An explicit skill handover focus within each activity
- Repeated opportunities within and across activities

Benefits of Themes

- Planning time
- Structure
- Coherence
- Activity mix
- Facilitates ARISE

Side-note: Thematic instruction ➔ knowledge, vocabulary, and comprehension ➔ students to handle more difficult texts, ➔ improved knowledge & language ➔ raising SATs ➔ J!

**Mushroom in the Rain**

**Intervention Unit**

- **Whole-part-whole**
  - Start with a storybook for introduction of skills
  - Middle are focused activities on each skill
  - End with a story creation for integration of skills

**Objectives**

- Narrative structure - a complete episode
- Vocabulary - wet and its variants
- Cohesion - pronoun reference
- Pragmatics - persistent requesting
- Syntax - conditional verbs (could, may, should, can’t, must...)

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**Teaching Story Structure**

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- Literature, SLP, peers as models
- Primarily oral modality
- ARISE
- Share stories and have fun!

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**Narrative References**


