

Speaking Activities

Activities for Developing Speaking Skills in Early Childhood

The activities here below are just examples of what can be done in developing speaking skills. Think of other activities.

Story telling

Children get great enjoyment from listening to stories. A teacher should tell children stories with enthusiasm that is in a very interesting way in order to maintain the interest of the children. Until the child has acquired at least a basic understanding of a second language, stories can be enjoyed in a first language. As soon as it is possible very simple stories can be introduced in the second language. In order to promote speech children should be encouraged to retell the story, answer questions from the story or discuss various components of the story such as characters, settings, among others.

Suggestions for Story Telling

- Select an interesting story that you know well in oral form
- Make use of teaching aids such as pictures. Using a series of pictures, which together make a story, is a good aid to storytelling. Good children storybooks usually provide colourful pictures. These are very useful.
- Use real objects where possible, to make the story more vivid for the children.
- Vary your voice and make it as interesting as possible. You can use different voices for different characters in the story. For example for a lion you can use a “roaring” voice, a “singing” voice for a bird etcetera. Use of lots of actions and gestures helps children to understand.
- Use of drama, even in a limited way, also makes storytelling interesting and increases children’s involvement. You can get the children to represent the characters in a story.
- Keep the language within the understanding of the children. When necessary, teach any new words that are to be used in the story before starting to tell the story.
- Keep the story short and to the point because young children lose interest very quickly. They have a short attention span.