



## **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...

ORAL STORYTELLING Communication Skills

- . Speaking
- Listening
- Non-verbal gestures THINKING



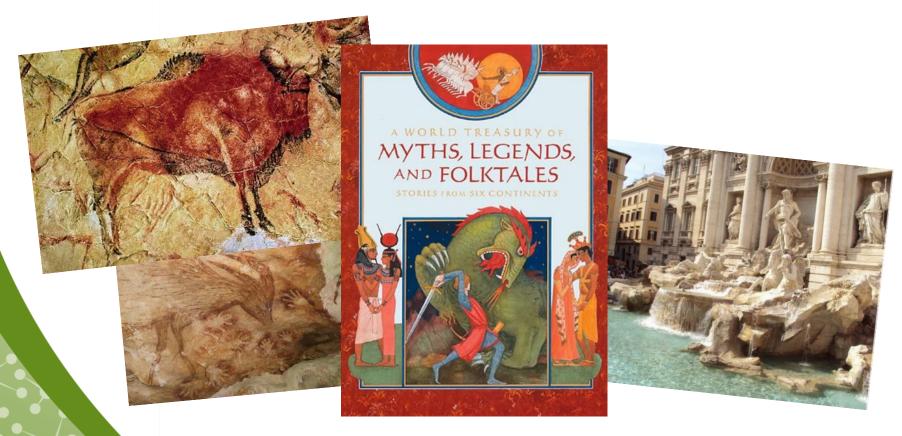
In EY Classrooms other forms may include...

- 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...



making sense of the world...a way of knowing





...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



- Drawings
- Photos-Videos
- Book making





Nursery develops talent with 'helicopter' acting

Re Imagine Learning



### **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



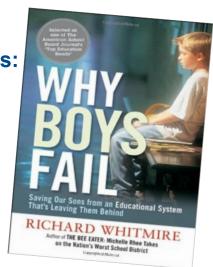


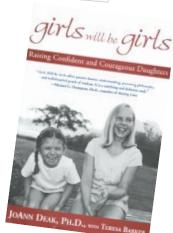
### **Gender & Early Literacy**

#### 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 in different sequences 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**

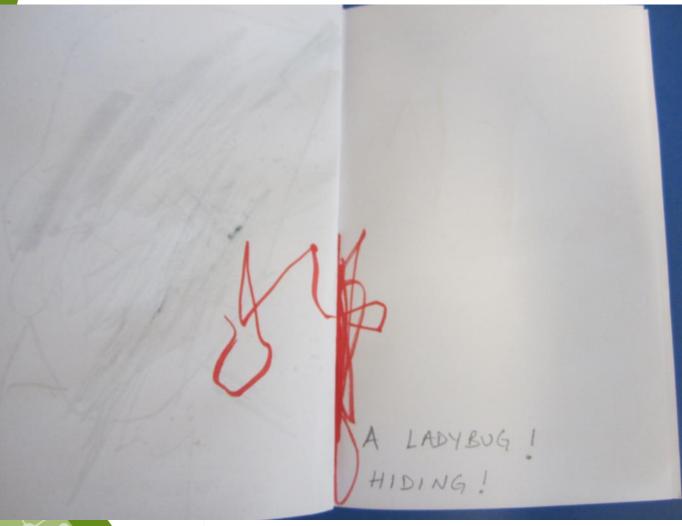




At first, inspirational sources many times are familiar Pattern Books

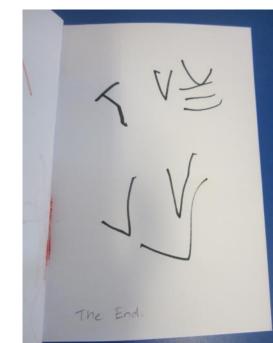






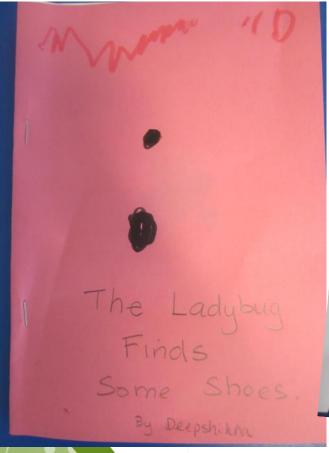
Narrative tells us about his way of knowing story, how he uses words to convey meaning & explore emotions

Wordless books vs. books with text

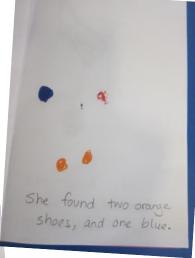




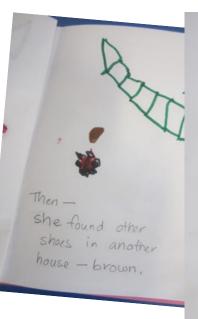
#### Similarities & Differences











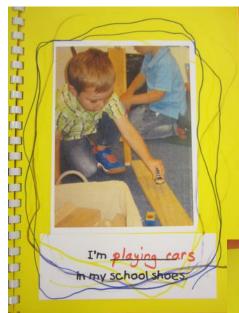


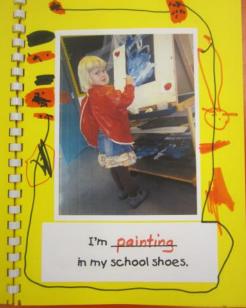




### Scaffolding with class books...









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





# Then selecting and sorting pictures...





## Followed by lots of design planning & then gluing!

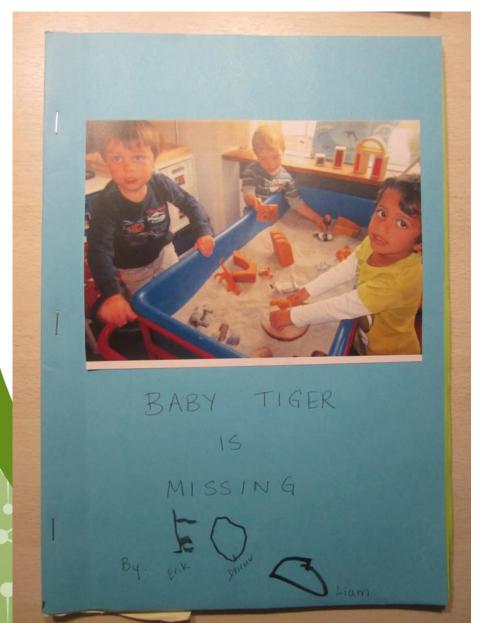




### Then more sequencing ...





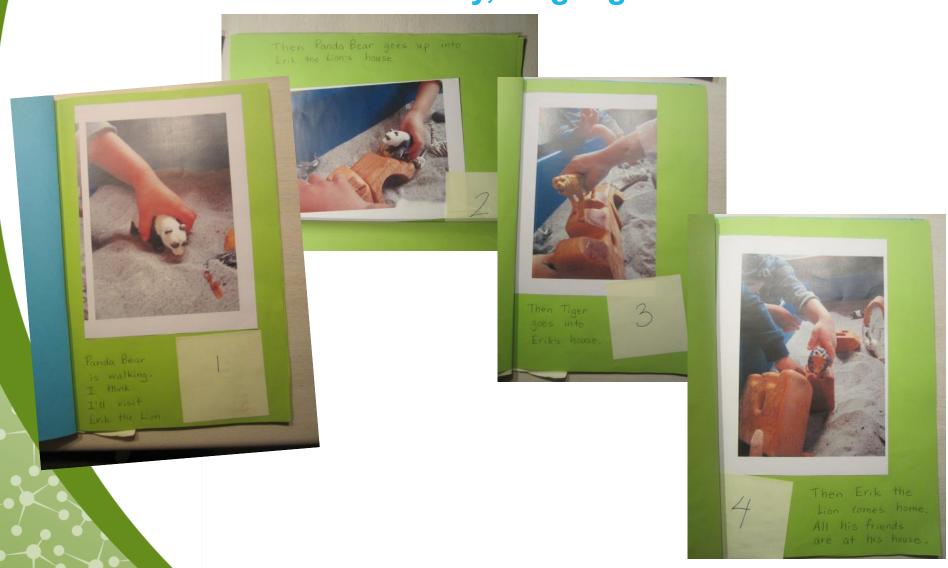


### Adding words...

dictation & reflection
empowering all voices



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





# 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.

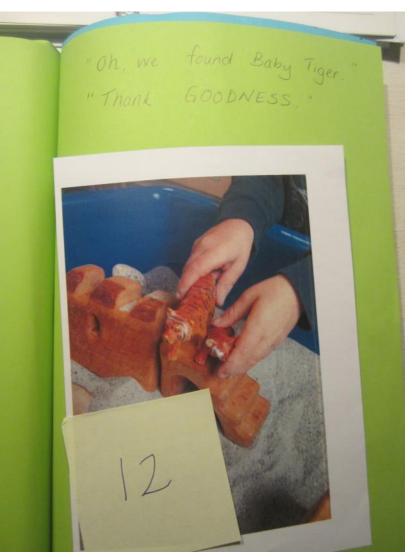






# A story may change when retelling from pictures or 'rereading' it by themselves, but then it just takes on new meaning.

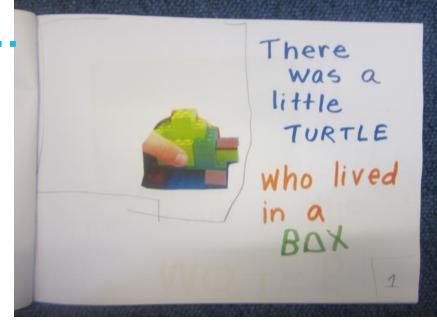




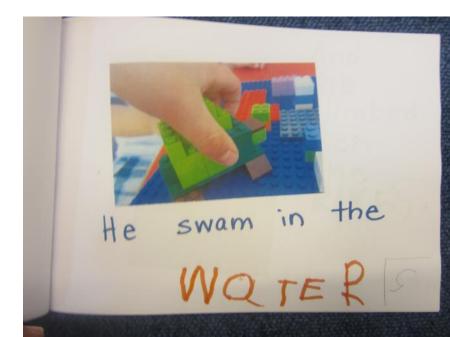


Next stage...





Encouraging boys to write <u>words</u> in meaningful ways, and read.



















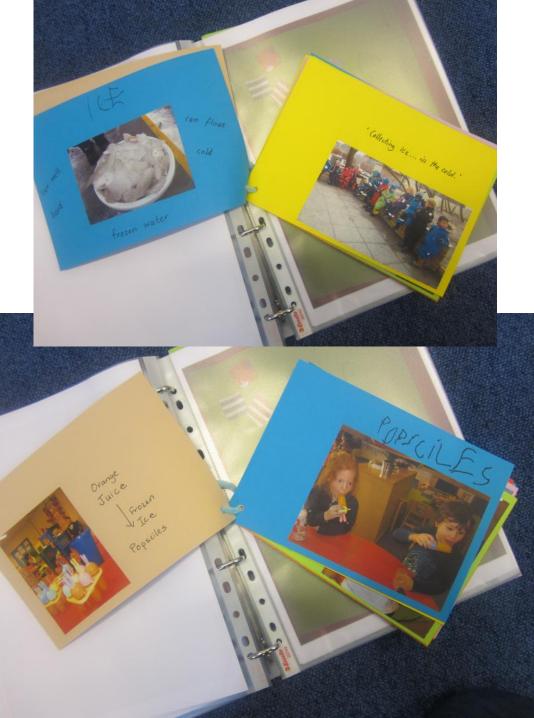
Narrative texts-Fantasy





#### Informational texts-reality







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-V. Paley



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