

Animal Story Dictations

Story is a powerful outlet for children to communicate their ideas. They often use story to reenact events they see in their own lives as a way of processing and understanding the world around them.

Animals are fascinating to young children. They use imaginative play to “try on” what it would be like to be an animal. Blending the interests of animals and story together can create an engaging way to help build literacy and reading comprehension.

Story dictation empowers children to document their voices and ideas. As the facilitator, your main task is to record the story the child tells you. Being an active listener includes nodding, eye contact, and clarifying. Clarifying can help move the story along if the child seems stuck at a particular point. Repeating the child’s words and asking for clarification can help the child refocus and continue on with the story. After the child has finished dictating his or her story, read the story back to them and ask if they would like to add anything else.

Extensions

Drawing

Some children can formulate a story more successfully when drawing. Offer this as a choice with clip boards and drawing materials. As they draw, encourage them to communicate their story. These drawings and story dictations can even be made into a book!

Reenacting Stories

Bring children’s stories to life by inviting children to act them out. This can be done during meeting or circle time or spontaneously during choice time. Support children to create a plan about who will be the characters and encourage them to gather any props they may need. This can also be done in the block area! Invite children to create settings for their stories to take place.

Here are some Kodo products that can support reenacting children’s stories:

- Wooden Zoo Animals
- Wooden Farm Animals
- Play Silks
- Pillars and Cubes Building Blocks
- Cylinders Building Blocks
- Wooden Loose Parts Kit