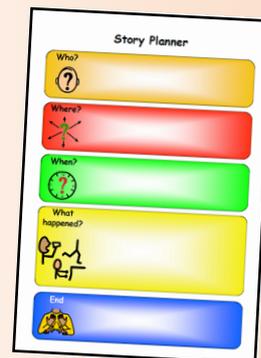# Spoken sentences and narrative

Developing narrative skills with story planners

Activities and strategies to try:

- Read a **familiar story** together or talk about a **special occasion**. It is important to use **visual support** to prompt the child when thinking of ideas.

- When the child has finished their story, ask questions making reference to the **story planner** (see next page). If the child struggles to think of ideas, then **give hints and suggestions**. If the child still struggles, **give a choice** of answers and see if the child can identify the correct one. Check that the child understands the meaning of questions like 'who?' and 'when?'

- As the child gives you information about each part of the story, encourage them to **add this information to the story planner** – the child can do this using drawings or writing 1-2 key words. At this stage, the focus is on getting their ideas down on paper.

- When the child has completed each part of the story-grid, **encourage him/her to re-tell the story or event**, initially **using one word/phrase/sentences** about each box in the grid. The sentences can be written on the story planner or a separate sheet of paper.

- The focus is on the child's **spoken narrative skills**, rather than their writing skills, so it's is OK for the adult to **scribe** the child's answers in order to keep the focus on speaking.

- The amount of information required can be **gradually increased**. For example, two sentences in each box of the grid.

- It's OK to revisit the same story in order to develop the richness and detail of the child's narrative. You can **model the use of connectives** (e.g. 'but then...' 'next...') to encourage connections between different parts of the narrative.

Measuring progress: Length of spoken narratives - use of connectives - use of connectives like 'then' 'next' 'because' etc. - use of storytelling language like 'once upon a time...'
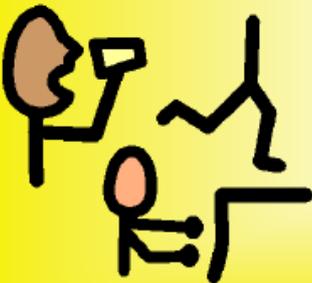
Story Planner

Who?
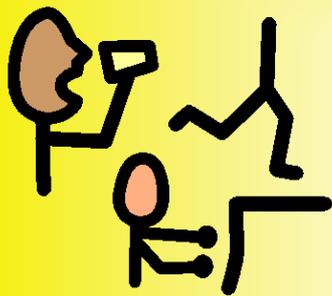
Where?

When?

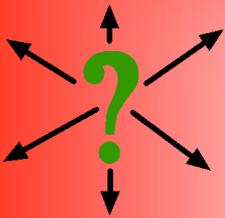**What happened?**

End

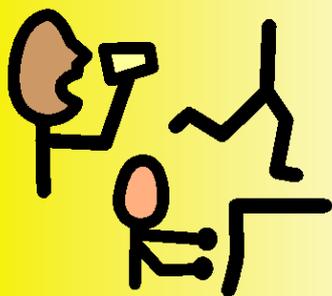# Story Planner (simplified)

Who?

Where?

What happened?

Who?

Where?

When?

What happened?

End