

# StoryTales

## Teacher Guide Introduction

### Who is the material For?

The StoryTales Teacher Guide is for preschool teachers. It is designed to help teachers develop children's language and literacy skills, such as expressing thoughts, ideas, and opinions, having conversations with others, and understanding narrative structure and elements.

### What is it For?

The StoryTales Teacher Guide provides fun and engaging opportunities for developing early language and literacy. Children will explore the world of make believe as they retell fictional stories, and exercise their imaginations by building and telling their own stories. They will use StoryTales to plan or describe activities and learn about sequencing of events and steps in a process.

Using the Teacher Guide, preschool teachers can facilitate exciting lessons in which children learn to express themselves verbally and non-verbally. As children work together to build scenes, they will explore common literary elements, such as settings, characters, and events. The versatility of StoryTales allows children to tell stories in a variety of ways. For example, they may build separate scenes for different parts of the story (i.e., beginning, middle, and end). Alternatively, they may role-play a story by changing the scene as they narrate it.

### How are the learning objectives achieved?

Throughout the lessons, strategic questions will guide children through the process of applying language and literacy skills. Furthermore, the LEGO® DUPLO building activities will reinforce the children's creativity.

Refer to the table of contents for a brief description of lesson topics. Each lesson is labeled as *beginner*, *intermediate*, or *advanced*, based on the skills and knowledge needed to complete the lesson. The Teacher Guide includes two Getting Started Activities designed to introduce the children to the basic ways they will be using StoryTales. Introducing these activities first will give the children a solid foundation for completing the other six lessons. Subsequent lessons may be selected according to what is most relevant and appropriate for the children.

In order to create a connection between verbal narration and written record, write down the stories the children build and narrate. Reread these stories to the class, and share these stories with parents. Children will be motivated by seeing their stories recorded in writing, and their stories will become more structured and coherent over time.

### Appendix with Images

The appendix contains two types of printable images: background card images and pictures of lesson-related models. The background card images give you the opportunity to print extras so that multiple children can use the same image. The pictures of lesson-related models can be used to help the children connect to the lesson, and may also be used as building inspiration when children are constructing their own stories. Each of the models shown can be built using StoryTales.



◀ BEGINNER  
INTERMEDIATE  
ADVANCED



## Customizing to Your Class Needs

The StoryTales lessons can be tailored to your needs and the needs of your class. One StoryTales set can be used with up to six children at a time, working in pairs. Children need a lot of practice before they become proficient at building with a partner, and this is a good way to promote collaboration. The activities can be done in centers or stations around the classroom, or in small groups.

Personalizing the scenarios and content to fit your classroom dynamics and physical setup will help the children connect to the stories. For example, consider replacing the suggested stories with ones that are relevant to your class.

StoryTales and the Teacher Guide can be combined with any other LEGO® DUPLO set for even more storytelling possibilities. Combining other LEGO DUPLO sets with StoryTales will also provide more building opportunities. Additionally, creating costumes and play props with craft materials can enrich the children's storytelling experiences.

Expect differentiated learning outcomes based on each child's existing knowledge, vocabulary, and experience. Children's verbal responses, models, and role-playing will vary. Support the children's learning by adapting the discussion questions and making the stories relevant to them.

## What is it?

- The StoryTales Teacher Guide consists of two Getting Started Activities and six lessons
- The activities and lessons require StoryTales (45005)



## Lesson Structure

Each lesson is structured according to a natural learning flow called the *LEGO® Education 4C Approach*, which promotes successful learning experiences. The Connect, Construct, and Contemplate phases, which are the first three phases of each lesson, can be done in one session. The Continue phase is more challenging and can be completed in a later session.

## Connect

During the Connect phase, short stories and discussions will spark children's curiosity and activate their existing knowledge while preparing them for a new learning experience.

## Construct

In this phase, the children will participate in a hands-on building activity. As their hands create models of people, places, objects, and ideas, their minds will organize and store new information related to these structures.

## Contemplate

During the Contemplate phase, children are given the opportunity to reflect on what they have done and to talk about and share insights they have gained during the Construct phase of the lesson.

## Continue

New challenges in this phase build upon the concepts children have learned previously in the lesson. These extension activities enable children to apply their newly acquired knowledge. The Continue phase does not have to be done as part of the same lesson. Children may not be ready to complete the Continue phase until they have repeatedly practiced the skills learned in the first parts of the lesson.

## Did you notice?

The Language and Literacy guidelines from NAEYC and HeadStart have been used to develop the StoryTales lessons. Please refer to the learning grid for an overview of these education guidelines. The learning goals listed at the end of each lesson can be used to determine whether or not each child is developing the relevant early language and literacy skills. These bullet points target specific skills or pieces of information that are practiced or presented during each lesson.



Lesson	Learning Goals
Lesson 1	• [ ]
Lesson 2	• [ ]
Lesson 3	• [ ]
Lesson 4	• [ ]
Lesson 5	• [ ]
Lesson 6	• [ ]
Lesson 7	• [ ]
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