

Structured Language Experience Story

What is a “Structured Language Experience Story” and why is it important?

A “Structured Language Experience Story” (Gaskins et al., 1989) is a passage that has been developed to provide your child with material to read containing specific spelling patterns and sight words that he should practice.

How do I use a “Structured Language Experience Story” with my child?

“Structured Language Experience Stories” should contain words with specific spelling patterns that your child has been practicing in “Make a Word” or “Glass Analysis” activities and sight words from his “Word Bank.” Your child can read “Structured Language Experience Stories” that his teacher has provided; or, you can write a story with your child. Children enjoy creating these original stories. To create a story, place a list of the words within your child’s view. Discuss possible story lines that could be used which incorporate some of the words or words with the same spelling pattern. Then use one of the “Story Grammar” formats to outline the story. Your child can dictate the story while you act as a scribe.

Your child can read a story repeatedly throughout the week using an “Autograph Sheet” to record the number of times it was read. Stories should be saved and read periodically for review. Note: “Structured Language Experience Stories” developed by the teachers are available on the ThinkingWorks web site (www.getthinkingworks.com).

Structured Language Experience Story

Spelling Pattern: ace

Spelling Pattern Words: face lace race space pace

Setting: Space

Characters: Astronauts

Problem: See who could float the fastest

Events:

1. Began on Saturday a.m.
2. Dressed in space suits, boots and helmets
3. Astronauts begin at 9 and floated slowly
4. Adam moved quickly
5. Won the race

Ending: Waited for other astronauts

The Great Space Race

The astronauts decided to have a race in space. They wanted to see who could float the fastest across the moon. The race began as soon as the astronauts got up on Saturday morning. They put on their space suits and laced up their space boots. They put their helmets on to cover their faces. At nine o’clock in the morning, the race began. The astronauts floated slowly through space. Each astronaut was headed to the place where the shuttle was waiting to greet the winners at the end of the race. Astronaut Adam kept a fast pace throughout the entire race. He moved so quickly he did not leave a trace behind him for the other astronauts to follow. At twelve o’clock, Adam crossed the finish line and won the great space race. He took his place next to the space shuttle until the other astronauts had finished the race, too.



Structured Language Experience Story Outline

Spelling Pattern:

Spelling Pattern Words:

Sight Words:

Characters:

Setting:

Somebody:

Wanted:

But:

So:

Structured Language Experience Story Outline

Spelling Pattern:

Spelling Pattern Words:

Sight Words:

Characters:

Setting:

Beginning:

Middle:

End:



Structured Language Experience Story Outline

Spelling Pattern:

Spelling Pattern Words:

Sight Words:

Characters:

Setting:

Problem:

Events:

Ending:



Structured Language Experience Story

Autographs:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____