

Steps in teaching an ACTION STORY

ESPONS YALI-EHEMUHKE, by Wayne A. Newell, illustrated by Lee Suta, 1973

Rationale: The Action Story approach engages the children, combining language and movement, helping everyone to understand the story without having to use English.

1. Present visuals of key objects to children, saying each word in order and having them repeat. Do this 3 or more times, until they can recognize the word.

ehem, ehemuwok espons

ehemuwikuwam 'soqon

2. Act out gestures for each key phrase in order, modeling the gesture for the children while saying each phrase. Do this at least 3 times in order.

Psi-te wen kuhu ehemuwikuwamok. (sleeping gesture)

Etuci-kotuhpit espons. (rubbing the stomach to show hunger)

Woli ehta-te apqotehmuwan. (opening the door)

Woli-te ksaha, motaqs. (sweeping the hand to welcome someone inside)

Elkihqahk wot ehem 'soqon! (gesture to show a BIG tail)

Etuci-siktehpaihtit ehemuwok. (gesture of fright)

Tehpu qeni-olotoqqihtit (jumping down)

Naka mace-kikcokonaniya (tickling)

Espons amuwiyessit (gesture of going crazy)

Espons etuciyat (gesture of running away)

Ehemuwok etutqahsultihtit (sleeping gesture)

3. Practice saying the phrases and having the children do the gestures without the teacher modeling the gestures.

4. Change the order of the phrases and gestures.

5. And finally read the entire story with the children standing and doing all of the gestures at the appropriate moments.

Options:

Use props, like a kerchief and shawls, a mask, and a tail (?) to act out the story.

Use puppets of espons naka ehemuwok to tell the story.