

## An Assessment of Narrative Speech and Grammar

Name:

Age:

Story Structure					
Sequence cards	Using book	Re-telling own news/event	With visual		
			No visual		
Story Structure					
Use of story elements	Who	Where	When	What	Why
Use of connectives	and	(and) then	that	when	so
Total number of connectives:	because	until	while	but	although
Use of descriptive language. Examples:					
				Yes	No
Does the story make sense?					
Is there a clear beginning, middle and end?					
Is a story starter used? (E.g. 'Once upon a time...')					
Does the story match the sequence of pictures?					
Does the child use expression for characters?					
Does the child talk for the characters e.g. 'The policeman said.....'?					
2 years	An unrelated collection of ideas		Topic/story line changes		
2–2½ years	Child makes own links, little logic		Character, setting or topic consistent		
3–4 years	Definite sequence of ideas		Starts to explain why things happen		
4–5 years	Main character and logical sequence but listener has to fill in the gaps		Links ideas with 'and', 'but' or 'because'		
5–7 years	Story has a plot in which characters and relationships develop		Story has clear beginning, middle and end with explanations		

Sentence Structure								
Age		0	1	2	3	4	5	6
2–2½ yrs	3 word sentences							
	Uses past tense							
	Uses determiners, 'the' and 'a' used?							
	Uses pronouns e.g. he, she, his, her, they etc used correctly?							
	Uses verb to be e.g. 'I <b>am</b> , he <b>is</b> , they are'							
	Uses auxiliary verbs e.g. 'can, could, may, might, shall, should, ought'?							
	Uses possessives e.g. 'The boy's', 'Sam's',							
2½–3 yrs	4+ word sentences							
	Uses 'and' to join sentences							
3–3½ yrs	Uses more joining words e.g. 'but', 'so', 'because', and 'then.'							
	Uses irregular past tense							
	Uses irregular plural nouns							
	Correct use of 'I' e.g. 'I like....'							
	Starts embedding phrases in sentences e.g. 'The girl with the basket on her head is called Handa'							
	Starts using the passive voice e.g. 'The lorry was pulled by the pick-up truck'							
4½ yrs	Uses complex sentences which are usually grammatically correct							
	Start using words to suggest connectivity at the beginning of a sentence e.g. 'Actually.....', 'However.....', 'While.....'							
	Uses increasingly complex sentences by embedding phrases and using connectives.							

	Targets
1	
2	
3	

**Key:**

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Not used	Just emerging	Emerging	Uses but requires prompt	Used but in NELI session only	Almost secure = Used outside session but not 100%	Secure = Competent use in range of everyday situations