

Exemplar 3

A sample of extension work based on a story

This activity could be used as a follow-up to a reading of the story of Rapunzel. The activity, building a tower using blocks, provides the context for a variety of language use ranging from the simple to the complex. Much of the language development in the lesson is related to the development of thinking skills.

This activity is designed for a group of children and requires them to co-operate and communicate with each other in order to achieve the purpose of the activity.

Suggested activities

In collaboration with the teacher the children can

- discuss the tower in terms of its height, shape, location, purpose
- name, recall or compare other towers, local buildings, other stories, nursery rhymes
- estimate how high their tower blocks should be or will be
- suggest suitable materials
- plan, discuss and agree a strategy as to who will be responsible for different aspects of the activity
- propose ways of including windows, doors, stairs
- draw a picture
- describe the on-going process
- sustain the idea with reference to the plan and to the agreed strategy
- develop the imaginary context by possibly adding play people, toy animals or vehicles to create a narrative related to the tower
- sustain a coherent narrative thread, assigning roles to play people, describing a sequence of events, imputing motives and predicting outcomes.



Building a tower—a context for cognitive development through language

Further extension work

In a follow-up activity, in collaboration with the teacher, the children could be encouraged to

- recall and relate the factual account of the activity and retell the story they created—perhaps taking responsibility for different parts of the work and telling different parts of the story
- write and illustrate these
- read them aloud to other children.