

Story Chain Reaction: Fluency & Chat

Requirements

Picture cards (various scenes/characters)

Timer

Optional: Recording device

Instructions

Introduction (5 minutes): Explain the activity to the client. "Today, we're going to create a story together using these picture cards. We'll take turns adding to the story, and I want you to focus on speaking smoothly. Remember to use your fluency strategies like light articulatory contacts if you need them. If you get stuck, it's okay! Just take a deep breath and try again. We're practicing fluency AND conversation skills, so listen carefully and ask questions."

Card Selection (2 minutes): Lay out several picture cards face up on the table. Have the client select the first card to begin the story. This card will serve as the initial setting or introduce the first character.

Story Start (3 minutes): The SLPA begins the story based on the first card, speaking smoothly and clearly. Model appropriate conversational turn-taking. Example: "Once upon a time, in a small village nestled beside a sparkling blue lake [showing the picture of a village by a lake] lived a young girl named Lily. She loved to explore..."

Client's Turn 1 (5 minutes): Set the timer for the client. Encourage the client to continue the story based on the SLPA's introduction and their chosen card. Remind the client to focus on their fluency. Provide gentle prompts if needed, such as: "What does Lily do next?" or "Where does Lily decide to explore?". Use "sdv" sounds in your own commentary and encourage the client to use words with those sounds in their story. For example, if the client uses the sentence "She walked to the woods", you might say "Yes, she walked very slowly through the woods."

Card Addition (2 minutes): After the client's turn, have the client choose another picture card to incorporate into the story.

SLPA's Turn (3 minutes): The SLPA continues the story, smoothly integrating the new picture card. Again, model good conversational skills by asking the client questions related to the developing story (e.g., "What do you think Lily will find in the woods?" "Should she solve the mystery?"). Incorporate "sdv" sounds in commentary and modeling.

Client's Turn 2 (5 minutes): Set the timer. The client continues the story, building on the SLPA's contribution and incorporating ideas from the new picture card. Gently remind the client to use their fluency techniques and to ask questions of the SLPA regarding the story. Provide encouragement and positive reinforcement for both fluency and conversational participation. Focus on "sdv" sounds.

Wrap Up (2 minutes): Conclude the story and provide positive feedback to the client. Discuss their fluency during the activity. "You did a great job today! How did you feel your fluency was? What strategies did you use that helped you?" If a recording device was used, play back a short segment for the client to self-assess. Praise both the fluency and conversation skills demonstrated.