



# Pedagogical sheet

## The Magic in Life

### PRESENTATION OF THE BOX

**LEVEL/AGE GROUP:** 8+ years old

**DURATION:** You can split the lessons

**THEMES:** Magic, dreams, imagination.

### KEY COMPETENCES DEVELOPED:

<b>LITERACY</b>	Vocabulary development, creative expression, poetic forms and structures, critical thinking.
<b>NUMERACY</b>	Shape recognition, spatial awareness, problem-solving skills, geometry terminology.
<b>DAILY LIFE</b>	Vocabulary development, creative expression, cultural awareness, communication skills.

### AIM OF THE BOX:

This box is addressed to children aged 8+ and aims to create an immersive and engaging learning experience by exploring the themes of magic, dreams and imagination with various educational activities.



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Magic, dreams and imagination naturally captivate children's curiosity and inspire a sense of wonder. By leveraging the fantastical elements of the "Jack and the Beanstalk" story, children are drawn into a world where anything is possible, encouraging them to think creatively and dream big.

The inclusion of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) tools plays a crucial role in this educational journey. These tools provide all children, not only those with speech and language challenges, with alternative methods to express their ideas and thoughts. By using visual aids, children can effectively communicate and interact with each other, thereby enhancing their communication and social skills.

Through the timeless tale of "Jack and the Beanstalk" and hands-on activities such as solving tangram puzzles and crafting poems, the box aims to foster the development of various literacy, numeracy and daily life skills in children. Indeed, by delving into the realm of storytelling and creative expression, children will enhance their literacy skills, their critical thinking abilities, and, most importantly, their imagination.

## IMPLEMENTATION

### THE DIFFERENT STEPS

1. Story: “Jack and the Beanstalk”
  - o Set the thematic foundation of the box and spark the children’s imagination. Read the story together, then discuss key elements such as characters, settings, and the power of the magic beans.
2. AAC tool: What is there in a home?
  - o Help children develop their vocabulary about types of accommodation and their understanding of different parts of a house. Use the communication boards to identify and label buildings, rooms, furniture, actions, etc. Discuss what makes each room special.
3. Activity: My dream house
  - o Encourage self-expression and communication skills by asking the children to describe their dream house by using the previous AAC tool and creating their own communication board. Allow them to present their idea to the group and encourage interaction.
4. AAC tool: Shapes are all around us
  - o Let the children connect abstract shapes to real-world objects by using the photos to identify shapes found in everyday life.

Go on a shape scavenger hunt around the classroom. Assign each child a shape and ask them to draw an everyday object in that shape. Create a visual aid tool with all the drawings.

5. Activity: Tangram puzzles

- o Use the tangram sets and challenge the children to create different shapes and figures, including elements that remind them of the story. This activity will allow them to develop their problem-solving and shape recognition skills.

6. Activity: Word scramble

- o The children receive a list of words (nouns, verbs, adjectives, prepositions, adverbs and pronouns) that they will have to use to create their own poems. Explore different kinds of poems with them, such as haikus and free verse. Encourage creativity and expression.

7. AAC Tool: The word dance

- o Let the children express themselves creatively by creating a poetic choreography. After they have written their poem, show them the sign language equivalent of the different words and let them interpret their creations using signs.

8. Pictograms: Retelling the story of “Jack and the Beanstalk”

- o Use the sets of pictograms to help the children retell the story in their own words. Encourage them to sequence the

pictograms accordingly to reconstruct the story in the right order.

## VIGILANCE POINTS

To ensure the inclusion of all children, especially those with speech or language difficulties and specific learning disorders, teachers need to pay close attention to the following aspects:

- Ensure all materials are available in adapted formats.
- Demonstrate how to use the AAC tools effectively to encourage the children to use them confidently.
- Adapt the tasks to different skill levels and use flexible grouping.
- Break the tasks into manageable steps.
- Offer frequent feedback and encouragement.
- Encourage peer support and collaboration.
- Adjust pacing and support as needed.
- Create a sensory-friendly environment.

## POTENTIAL ADAPTATIONS

### **Adaptation of the material**

If need be, you can adapt the material to the needs of your pupils.

For instance, you can prepare cardboard, wooden, or 3D-printed shapes for the tangram activity, which are easier to manipulate than paper.

If the children do not have the fine motor skills needed to cut the pictograms for the Dream House activity, cut the pictures beforehand and distribute them in envelopes.

### **Pedagogical adaptation**

If need be, you can adapt the material to your pedagogical needs.

### **Variations**

If need be, you can customise and adapt the material based on the children's interests, preferences and diverse learning needs.

## **TO GO FURTHER**

### **Bibliography**

Musselwhite, C et alii. (n.d.). Using Poetry to JumpStart Language & Literacy! *AAC Intervention*.

[https://at-udl.com/library\\_bkup/DATA/Four%20Block%20Literacy/Writing/Poetry%20Gap%2006.pdf](https://at-udl.com/library_bkup/DATA/Four%20Block%20Literacy/Writing/Poetry%20Gap%2006.pdf)

## **RESOURCES OF THE BOX**

- Book, “Jack and the Beanstalk”, level 1
- Book, “Jack and the Beanstalk”, level 2
- 0. The present pedagogical sheet

- 1. AAC tool - daily life: What is there in a home?
- 2. Activity sheet - daily life: My dream house
- 3. AAC tool - literacy: The word dance
- 4. Activity sheet - literacy: Word scramble
- 5. AAC tool - numeracy: 2D Geometry: AAC tool to recognise shapes
- 6. Activity sheet - numeracy: Tangram