



Tips for Using *Tiger's Tale*

Tiger's Tale offers an exciting new way to elicit and record spontaneous conversational utterances. It can also be used as a springboard for accomplishing a variety of other therapeutic goals.

Children with Autism, Language Impairments, and Pragmatic Language Difficulties

Tiger's Tale offers a high-interest, open-ended environment for autistic children and children with pragmatic language difficulties to use and practice a variety of language structures and functions.

The professional working with the child can model a response and then ask the child to imitate it. The child builds discrimination abilities by listening to his or her response and determining if it was the same as the model provided. The child is also able to help aid in the repair of the utterance as it can be played back over and over. This is very appealing because the ability to repair is of significant importance in communication interaction.

Tiger's Tale provides ample opportunities for a child to express the feelings, needs, and wants of the Tiger who has lost his voice. On his journey, Tiger encounters feelings of anger, pain, fear, compassion, embarrassment, annoyance, nervousness, and loneliness. *Tiger's Tale* allows a child to discuss these feelings and then enables the clinician to expand both the structure and content of the child's utterances. Clinicians can help children make easy links to "real-life situations."

Tiger's Tale lends itself to discussions of social interactions in a non-threatening, personal environment. Clinicians can help children extend the use of targeted social expressions into every day communication situations. Pre-schoolers may begin by using simple interjections or expletives such as "Stop!" "Help!" or "Quit it!" and then expand and revise their utterances through models.

For older children, *Tiger's Tale* offers opportunities for abstract reasoning abilities and encourages the use of practiced language functions in social situations. For example,



a clinician could say, "What would you do if your friend were annoying you?" Asking students to generalize Tiger's problem into a real-life situation encourages students to use abstract thinking skills.

Tiger's Tale provides a format for facilitating turn-taking and maintaining topics. After the child responds to Tiger's situation, the clinician may ask the child to relate a similar experience. When the child initiates a new topic, the clinician can provide feedback on its appropriateness. Topic maintenance is a critical skill for many children within the autistic spectrum disorder.

Tiger's Tale can be used to build auditory memory skills. For example, the clinician can present a model of appropriate length and the client must imitate the model. The child is then asked to determine if the production was correct or incorrect.

Tiger's Tale is an excellent tool for vocabulary development and word finding. Each scene is rich with a variety of nouns, verbs, and adjectives. There are plentiful opportunities to elicit target syntactic structures, develop pragmatic language, and build word-finding abilities.

Articulation and Voice Therapy

The efficacy of recording in voice therapy is well-documented. The *Tiger's Tale* format offers recording capabilities to provide the child with the feedback needed for therapeutic progress. In addition to working on the vocal parameters of loudness and pitch, the clinician can easily encourage "oral openness" to improve oral resonance, decrease the rate of utterance, and provide drilling in intonation and stress.

As in voice therapy, the vocal recording of speech production is paramount to expediting phonological development. The student can practice the targeted phonemes at the word, phrase, and sentence levels, and determine if the production is satisfactory.

Fluency Treatment

Clinicians working with young children who stutter are always looking for motivating ways to encourage speech while recording it for later playback. *Tiger's Tale* provides an engaging, motivating, and non-threatening environment in which to elicit, record, and play back a child's speech.

Tiger's Tale lets a clinician model for the child, ask the child to produce the modeled utterance, decide whether the recording should be saved or not, and finally play back the child's utterance. It also gives the clinician control over the length of the recording, which allows the clinician to adjust the desired utterance (i.e. one word vs. a whole sentence). At the end of the program, the saved utterances are made into an animated movie. Movies can not only be played back in a treatment session, but also saved for future review. When a child has an exceptionally good session, the *Tiger's Tale* movie can become his or her fluency success story. Students can then show the movie to their parents and other teachers which builds both confidence and self-esteem.

Tiger's Tale has distinct advantages over video and audio recording. With *Tiger's Tale*, the clinician and/or child can decide not to save an utterance that contains a number of repetitions or blocks. If the child chooses to re-record a response, the child does not have to experience any anxiety while waiting for the clinician to erase the utterance. Erasing is not necessary; you simply record another sample.

Tiger's Tale can be used independently by school-age children. Once children have learned to monitor their disfluencies, they can make movies by themselves. This means that *Tiger's Tale* can be used at home, in a clinic, therapy

setting, or the child's classroom to create movies for later review with the clinician.

Portfolio Assessments

To help you extend the use of *Tiger's Tale*, we include 20 print-outs of the scenes as well as 6 sample Goals & Objectives that can be used for Portfolio Assessments. The print-outs of the scenes can be photocopied and used to stimulate both oral and written language.

To encourage expressive language, you can ask your students to name the different characters, objects, actions, situations, or problems that appear in the scenes. After children color the pictures, you can make a book for them to take home and share with their parents.

To increase your students' literacy skills, you can photocopy the pictures onto lined paper and have your students do a variety of written activities. For example, one of the portfolio objectives asks students to organize five pictures in a sequence and write a 5-10 sentence story in correct sequential order. These written activities can be posted to a student's portfolio for assessment purposes.

We believe that *Tiger's Tale* is a unique and powerful tool that will spark imagination and add creativity to a therapist's "bag of tricks."



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