



Title: STORYTELLING AND ART ACTIVITIES AS POTENT TOOLS IN ENHANCING THE CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS OF YOUNG LEARNERS

Introduction: This study aimed to focus on developing the critical thinking skills through storytelling and art activities in order to achieve efficiency and sustainability in the reading program at the Kinder level of the 21st century.

Methodology: The researcher invited 8 random Kinder students from public and private schools. They were given pretest and posttest. In between, the students were also given a 5-day module, containing different stories and art activities aligned to the Kinder curriculum. These were used to monitor their progress through a researcher-made checklist.

**The author declares that there is no conflict of interest.*

Comparison of the respondent's levels of critical thinking skills before and after the storytelling and art sessions.

Area	Phase	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean Difference	Test Statistic (t)	p-value	Decision	Remarks
Stories	Before	1.696	0.486	1.215	15.902	0.000	Reject Ho	Significant
	After	2.911	0.556					
Activities	Before	1.800	0.501	1.250	9.648	0.000	Reject Ho	Significant
	After	3.050	0.411					

Results: The results indicate that the use of storytelling and art sessions increases pre-school learners' critical thinking skills when it comes to storytelling. That is, implementing storytelling enhances their skill of comprehending the story, posing of and responding to questions, discovering more about a story's connection to real world and taking actions independently.

Conclusion: In the result of the 5-day period Storytelling and Art activities, the Kinder learners showed a great improvement in their critical thinking skills when it comes to answering thought provoking questions from the stories and they can relate and make connections using their crafts or artworks. After the implementation of the module, it shows that there was a great improvement between the Critical Thinking Skills of the students before and after the Storytelling and Art activities as they reflect, analyze, evaluate, and make connections using Art to the real-world settings. The Kinder learners also showed a notable increase in their reading performances after participating in the Storytelling and Art activities during the post-test.