

An Immersive Narrative

Identify topics that the children are interested in and like to talk about. Then, instead of having to tell them to be quiet all the time, the talk is constructive and useful for the world you're creating for them! In our case, the children were all interested in Star Wars.

1. Hooks and Challenges

It was important to 'hook' the children into the premise, so a video from Darth Vader inviting them to train as dark jedi seemed the best bet to capture their imagination. A series of challenges would follow, including choosing their base planet, secret name, etc, with their training culminating in the Jedi Trials (a great opportunity to assess progress).

2. Develop story - twists!

Instead of learning objectives, story arcs were used with the rationale that these would engage the children, root any activity in an immediate purpose, and help learning happen without them realising. As the story develops around the children's actions and decisions, the immersion deepens, and so does their investment in the story. Twists and surprises kept them on their toes!

3. Opportunity and Reward

As the story developed and the children's understanding of their allies and the numerous possibilities opened up, they were able to independently choose what steps to take next.

4. The Power of Small Wins

Whether it be thwarting the plot of a sneaky alien, mastering a new maths symbol, or successfully using finger spaces for the first time without being reminded, small wins contribute to real feelings of success and value.