

Scaffolding children's talk and learning

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1. The nature and process of scaffolding as a powerful metaphor for helping us to teach children more effectively.
2. Three key areas in supporting – or scaffolding – children's talk and learning in foreign language lessons:
 - i) the materials we use;
 - ii) the way we plan, design and sequence activities and tasks;
 - iii) the way we use discourse.
3. Discussion and illustration of key features of effective scaffolding based on a selection of practical classroom examples:

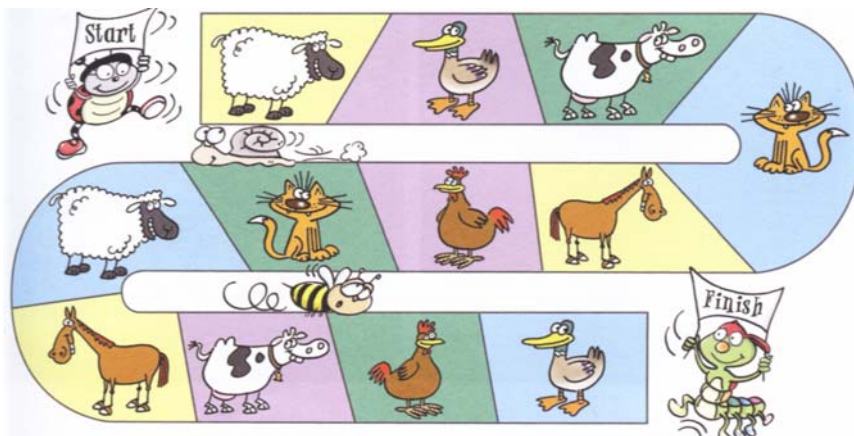
3.a A chant: *On the farm*

*On the farm by the river
There's a sheep.*

*... a sheep and a duck.
... a sheep and a duck and a cow.
... a sheep and a duck and a cow and a hen.
... a sheep and a duck and a cow and a hen and a horse.*

*On the farm by the river
There's a sheep and a duck and a cow and a hen and a horse
And a cat
And that is that!*

3.b A board game



3.c A story: *The moon is in the river*

Picture 1

It's night time. The sheep is by the river. The sheep is very thirsty.

Sheep: Oh, no! The moon is in the river! I'm going to get a boat.

The sheep walks and walks.

Sheep: Poor moon! Poor moon!

Picture 2

Duck: Hello sheep.

Sheep: Hello Duck

Duck: Where are you going?

Sheep: The moon is in the river. I'm going to get a boat.

Duck: Oh, dear. Poor moon! Can I come with you?

Sheep: Yes, of course, Duck.

The sheep and the duck walk and walk.

Sheep & Duck: Poor moon! Poor moon! ...

3.d A puzzle



3.e A song: *Where are you going?*

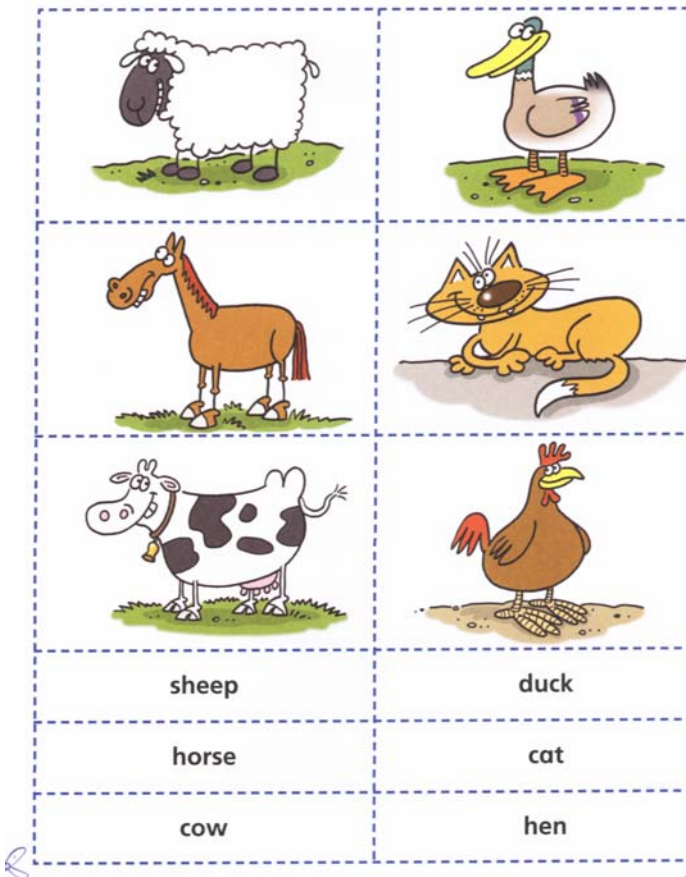
Where are you going?

I'm going to get a boat

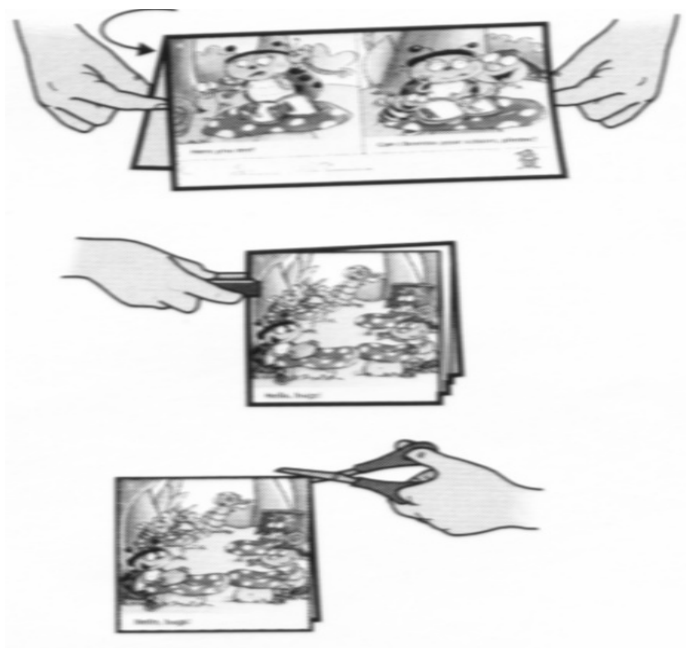
Can I come with you?

Yes, of course, ...!

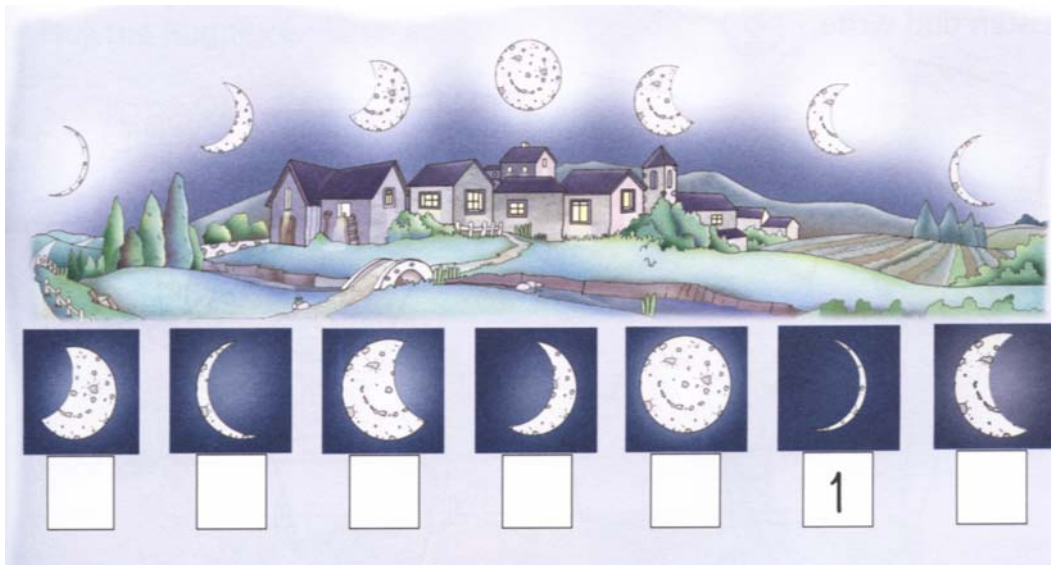
3.f Picture cards



3.g A mini-book



3.h Content-based material related to the story



4. References to slides during the session

- Berk L.E & Winsler A. (1995) *Scaffolding Children's Learning: Vygotsky and Early Childhood Education* Washington DC: National Association for the Education of Young Children
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- Maybin J., Mercer N. & Stierer B. (1992) 'Scaffolding' learning in the classroom. In Norman K (ed) *Thinking Voices: The Work of the National Curriculum Project* London: Hodder & Stoughton
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- Vygotsky L (1978) *Mind in Society* Cambridge Mass: Harvard University Press
- Wood D, Bruner J & Ross G (1976) The role of tutoring in problem-solving. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry* 17/2: 89-100

Note: All the examples of classroom materials are from Bugs 2 by Carol Read & Ana Soberón, Macmillan Education 2004.