Learning Through Play
What Happens Next?
Telling Stories with Children

Objectives:
- To understand why telling stories is important in ECD programmes?
- To know what strategies the teacher uses to tell a story?

What strategies does the teacher use to tell a story to children?
- Teachers make props to use during the storytelling; hats, labels or use clothing for different characters in the story. The teacher uses different voices for different characters and models good intonation and expression.
- The teacher asks questions before, during, and after the story. This helps the children make guesses about what will happen during the story and build their understanding.
- Sing a song, repeat chants from the story or say a rhyme that is related to the story when you have finished telling the story.

Why is telling stories important in ECD programmes?
- Storytelling can be used to tell oral traditional stories.
- Storytelling provides an opportunity for community members, caregivers, and elders to visit the programme and interact with the children, linking the community and the ECD Programme.
- Children learn how to listen to other people and let other people speak.

Adapting Storytelling for Children with Diverse Needs
- Storytelling shows the principles of universal design in action. When you use props in storytelling, and different voices for characters, more children can understand the story and what is happening.
- Different voices give children who are blind or visually impaired a hint about which character is talking.
- In the video you see the children who are watching or doing the actions to pull up the great big enormous turnip. The audience participates by watching, saying the words or doing the actions.

Reflection questions for teachers
- What strategies do you use to engage children in storytelling?
- How do you choose stories that are inclusive of children with diverse learning needs from ethnic communities or at a different stage of development?
- What did you learn from the video that you will add to your daily practice to do story telling with children?