

# Non-Standardized Language Testing

## Oral Language Samples:

A narrative sample (Story Tell) was elicited using the wordless picture book *Frog On His Own*. Patty was asked to review the pictures in the book and then tell the story while looking at the pages.

A second story (Story Re-Tell) was initiated with Patty using the book *Frog Where Are You From?* to identify whether or not story-telling abilities would improve after hearing an example. A Story Retell serves to rule out whether any errors or missing components in Patty's first story were the result of not having experience telling narratives or not understanding what was expected.

Patty's narrative sample is below followed by an explanation.

### Story 1: Tell

#### *Frog On His Own*

The boy was walking in a park, and he had a frog and a turtle in a bucket, and he was walking with his dog. And then his frog hopped out, and he didn't know, and then he kept on walking with his dog. And then he didn't know yet, and his frog was by a bush with butterflies around it, and the frog was waving goodbye. And then the frog looked at the flowers, and then he caught nectar, and he got it with his long tongue, and he started to eat it. Then he caught a fly, and then he didn't know, and then he swallowed it, and then he turned back and he fell. And then he opened his mouth, and the fly flew out. And then a man and a woman were having a picnic, and the man was pouring water into the girl's cup, and then the frog was looking to see where he can go. Then the frog hopped in the basket, and then the girl was trying to get some food, and they were talking, and then the girl felt maybe a little weird thing, and they were still talking, and maybe she was shocked. Then they all jumped up, and they were frightened, and the girl was really shocked that a frog was in the basket, and then the girl threw the basket and the frog in the cup into the water. And then the frog landed on a branch, and then he was sitting there for a while. And then the boy that had the frog and the turtle, the boy was sitting by the river, and he put a sailboat that he made in the water. And then the frog jumped off the branch, and the boy was shocked, and he landed on the boat, and then the boy got mad. And then his mom got it out, and she gave it to the boy, and then the frog hopped out, and then he was by the bushes. And then the frog bounced off into the baby carriage, and then the frog landed in there, and a boy dressed up in a rabbit costume was

looking at him, and then the cat looked up too at the frog. And then the lady was giving milk to the frog, and then they were all shocked, the baby was crying, and the cat was getting the frog. And then the baby was crying in the woman's lap, and then the cat ran to the frog to try to catch him. Then the cat caught the frog, and the cat was holding the frog, and then the dog started to bark at the cat, and the cat ran away, and the frog was next to the dog. And then the boy told the dog to scare him away, and then he did, and then the turtle was happy, and the boy was happy, and then they walked home. Oh, nice. Awesome story. What did you think about that story? Good. Good? Did you have any parts that you liked or didn't like? No, not really. I liked it. You liked it? What was your favorite part? Um, when the cat, like, sprung up, and he was shocked that a frog was in the baby carriage. Oh, yeah. I liked the part when the baby carriage, too, that the mom gave him the bottle. Why was that part funny? Because maybe she wasn't paying attention, and she didn't know, and I don't know. I thought it was funny. I thought it was funny, too, that the baby didn't see his bottle. Okay. That the mom didn't see. Okay? All right, so what we're going to do now...

## Story 2: Re-Tell

*Frog Where Are You From?*

Frog, where are you? By Mercer Mayer. There once was a boy who had a dog and a pet frog. He kept the frog in a large jar in his bedroom. One night, while he and his dog were sleeping, the frog climbed out of the jar. He jumped out of an open window. When the boy and the dog woke up the next morning, they saw that the jar was empty. The boy looked everywhere for the frog. He even looked inside his boots. The dog looked for the frog too. When the dog tried to look in the jar, he got his head stuck. The boy called out the open window, Frog, where are you? The dog leaned out the window with a jar still stuck on his head. The jar was so heavy that the dog fell out of the window head first. The boy picked up the dog to make sure he was okay. The dog wasn't hurt, but the jar was smashed. The boy and the dog looked outside for the frog. The boy called for the frog. He called down a hole in the ground while the dog barked at some bees in a beehive. A gopher popped out of the hole and bit the boy right on his nose. Meanwhile, the dog was still bothering the bees, jumping up on the tree and barking at them. The beehive fell down and all of the bees flew out. The bees were angry at the dog for ruining their home. The boy wasn't paying any attention to the dog. He had noticed a large hole in a tree, so he climbed up the tree and called down the hole. All of a sudden, an owl swooped out of the hole and knocked the boy to the ground. The dog ran past the boy as fast as he could because the bees were chasing him. The owl chased the boy all the way to a large rock. The boy climbed up on the rock and called again for his frog. He held on to some branches so he wouldn't fall. But the branches weren't really branches. They were deer antlers. The deer picked up the boy on his head. The deer started running with the boy still on his head. The dog ran along too. They were getting close to a cliff. The deer stopped

suddenly, and the boy and the dog fell over the edge of the cliff. There was a pond below the cliff. They landed with a splash right on top of one another. They heard a familiar sound. The boy told the dog to be very quiet. They crept up and looked behind a big log. There they found the boy's pet frog. He had a mother frog with him. They had some baby frogs, and one of them jumped towards the boy. The baby frog liked the boy and wanted to be his new pet. The boy and the dog were happy to have a new pet frog to take home. As they walked away, the boy waved and said goodbye to his old frog and his family. The End

Oral language samples provide us with robust information about a child's ability to correctly sequence and tell a narrative or explain what is taking place in a story. Samples also provide us with an example of a child's grammatical development.

### **Narrative Features:**

Patty's language samples were also analyzed for story grammar elements such as including information about characters, setting, events, attempts, and resolution. During Patty's story-telling exercise, the following narrative features were used:

<b>Narrative Feature</b>	<b>Story 1: Tell</b>	<b>Story 2: Re-Tell</b>
Time (time of day, month, season...)	X	X
Setting (place or location)	X	X
Initiating event (the problem or event that the story or actions of the character are based on)		X
Temporal sequence (flow of one thing after another in time)		X
Labels characters		X
Labels surroundings		X
Cohesive elements (used words like: first, then, and, and then, after)		X
Attempts (working to solve the problem created by the initiating event)		X
Consequence (result of attempts)		X

Reaction (emotionally appropriate responses to the event)		X
Provides implicit aims/intentions of characters (a character's actions based on the problem)		X
Resolution (the story was brought to a conclusion)		X
Explicit aims/plans of characters (uses words like "decided to")		X
Multiple attempts (More than one event working to solve a problem)		X
Multiple consequences (more than one outcome from trying to solve the problem)		X
Two separate but parallel episodes that influence each other (used words like: while, meanwhile)		X

## Grammatical Components:

During Patty's story-telling exercise, {{Client.pronoun.subjective.lowerCase}} produced **3** utterances with a mean utterance length (MLU) of **1.05**. The following grammatical components were used:

Grammatical Component	Story 1: Tell	Story 2: Re-Tell
Plurals: Regular and irregular	X	X
Articles: Agree in number and gender		X
Verbs: Subject/verb agreement		X
Verbs: Appropriate conjugations (regular. irregular)		X
Verbs: Appropriate tense (e.g., past, present, future)		X
Simple sentences	X	X
Conjunctions (i.e., semi-complex longer utterances using and)		X

Compound sentences (i.e., DEPENDENT CLAUSE+ DEPENDENT CLAUSE connected with and, or, but)		X
Complex sentences (i.e., DEPENDENT CLAUSE+ INDEPENDENT CLAUSE connected with but, so, when, etc.)		X
Sentences are complete and grammatical. They contain all obligatory words.		X
Child produced a story appropriate for the audience.	X	X
Child provided an appropriate amount of information for the listener.	X	X
Child stayed on topic.	X	X

## Summary of Language Sample Analysis

One or both stories were long and complex. I am not concerned.:

- There was an evident improvement in how grammatical features were used.
- There was an evident improvement in how narrative components were used.
- Many of the details that were used by the administrator were included in the second story.
- With or without visual cues, the story would have been understandable.