



Kamishibai theatre as a method of reading books in language lessons for very young learners – a case study

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The topic of the presentation is a case study of reading together with very young learners (children under 7 years; Slatterly & Willis, 2001) in a foreign language only, using various activating methods (including Kamishibai theatre which is a traditional Japanese method of storytelling using the small movable box theatre with pictures). The material was collected in the last 10 years in Polish primary schools, kindergartens, and projects cooperating with the local library (*Stacja Kultura* in Rumia). Similar German language learning methods were used in Finland in the springtime 2023 in Sipoo (Uusimaa), during meetings with the youngest children in Perhekahvila (family cafe or meeting point opened for everyone).

The selected method is based on Angelika Lundquist-Mog's book reading system (The Brothers Grimm & Lundquist-Mog, Lundquist-Mog & Widlok, 2015), which does not require children to know the used language. The presented techniques can be successfully implemented to work with very young learners, even those who do not read yet. In the context of migration and significant changes worldwide, European societies are moving towards multilingualism (Katsarova, 2022). The presented material can be successfully and widely used to teach any foreign language – especially for children of immigrants or in bi- and multilingual education. The presentation describes the fundamental factors required in this method and the criteria for selecting appropriate books (topics - including cross-curricular teaching, illustrations, amount of text, and the most important assumptions in conducting classes).

Keywords: Kamishibai theatre, Cross-curricular children teaching, Bi- and multilingual education

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