	NAME	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
0	No Participation	Child declines to participate in activity.
1	First Stories	 Child tells a one-word story such as "Mommy." Or "Running." Child says one or more words, but without connections among the words. Story can sound like a list of items or events (e.g., "A flower, a pencil, a bunny." Child may scribble on paper and give one-word label or name to each object. Story is one sentence (e.g., "A mermaid swims in the water.")
2	Sequence of Events	 Story elements share a common core because of some visible similarity (for example, a certain action repeated over and over or an "events of the day" story). Story is a collection of ideas/objects/ associations linked by some concrete similarity (e.g., "I build a strong house. The wolf cannot blow it. The Pig says, 'I went in my house.") There is no single idea or character or problem at the center of the story. Story might contain little detail or be a string of associations.
3	Primitive Narratives	 There is a core idea or character at the center of the story. Relations among characters and actions are not fully developed. The links among the characters and actions are based on practical experience in the here-and-now. The links are concrete rather than conceptual. Story events lead from one to another, but links may shift (settings may blur, characters may come and go).
4	Unfocused Chain	 Child's story line is tenuous and often gives way to another topic. Story events lead from one to another, but links may shift over the course of the story. Links among story events are often based in the here-and-now and are concrete.

(Continued)

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LEVEL	NAME	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
5	Focused Chain – Problems and Plots Emerge	 Story is well developed in terms of events and actions of characters. The story plot proceeds with a central idea or conflict that is concrete rather than conceptual (e.g., a baby is sick and needs to go to the doctor, a princess has to find her lost sister, or good guys have to stop pirates from kidnapping the captain). Stories can be a "continuous adventures of" type narrative (e.g., "My dog went to the store with me, she watched TV, she went to the park, and she barked at the squirrels.".
6	Elaborate Narrative	 Child's story unfolds with a set of events and characters around a central idea or problem with consistent forward movement toward problem resolution at a conceptual level (e.g., "A lonely fox has no friends and finds a lost rabbit. Will the fox try to eat it or find a way to make friends?"). Story has a climax where there is change in a character or circumstances as a result of events or characters' actions (e.g., "The lion was sorry he scared the fox, and they became friends. The lion built a hideout right by the fox's hole in the ground by the tree.") Story includes some description of characters' motivations and indicators of change.

Source: Adapted from Applebee (1978).