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Bobba in the library - Intercultural awareness and understanding

ACTIVITY 2: HOW DOES YOUR BOOK TALK?

Objectives/ aims of activity (children will be able to):

- Explore various writing systems and directions
- Develop observation and comparison skills as well as early literacy awareness

Activity steps

- 1) A selection of picture books (or pictures of such books in resource) in various languages and scripts (e.g. Arabic, Latin, Chinese, Greek, Braille) is displayed. Children are invited to explore books freely – flipping through the pages, looking at the letters, and noticing the illustrations
- 2) After the exploration, the teacher gathers the children and encourages them to share what they noticed: How do you open the books? Do all the letters look the same? Where do you think this book might come from?
- 3) The teacher introduces the idea that not all the languages are written the same ways: left to right (e.g. German, Italian), right to left (e.g. Arabic), and top to bottom (e.g. traditional Chinese).
- 4) Arrows are drawn on the floor to represent the different writing directions: one path goes left to right, one path goes from right to left, and one from top to bottom. Children choose a word (e.g. from a book title), and the teacher writes it on the floor using chalk or tape. Then, the children ‘walk’ the word along the corresponding path, following the direction of the script.

Resources needed to carry out the activity

- Resource “Different books, languages, scripts”: Story5_ICAU_2_Res
- Chalk or tape

Approximal time indication for activity: 15 minutes

Links to other activities

- SAME NAME, DIFFERENT LETTERS (Intercultural awareness and understanding, Story 5, activity 1)