



# Gender Roles in Preschool Children's Storytelling

Purpose of this study was to explore gender related themes in preschool children's storytelling.

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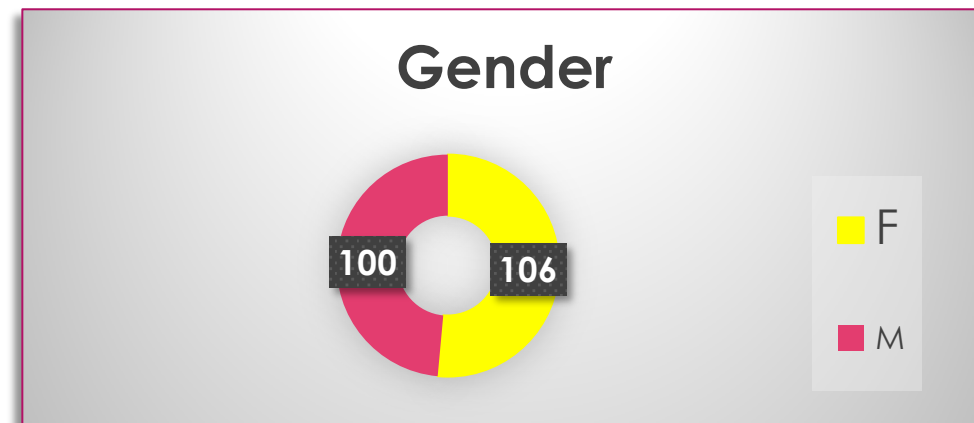
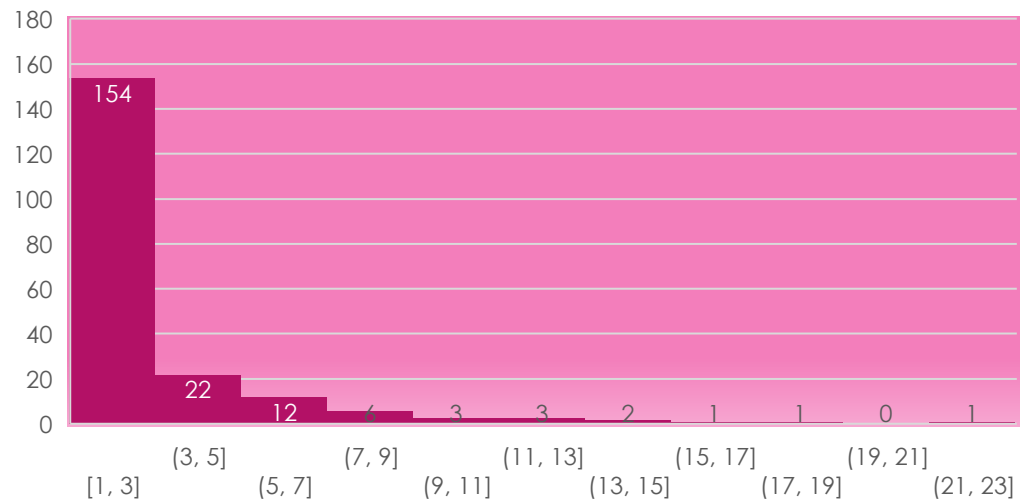
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# Methods & Data Set



- ▶ Set of 800 stories from preschool children ages 2-6
- ▶ Stories were coded for patterns and reoccurring themes by gender

Number of stories told per child

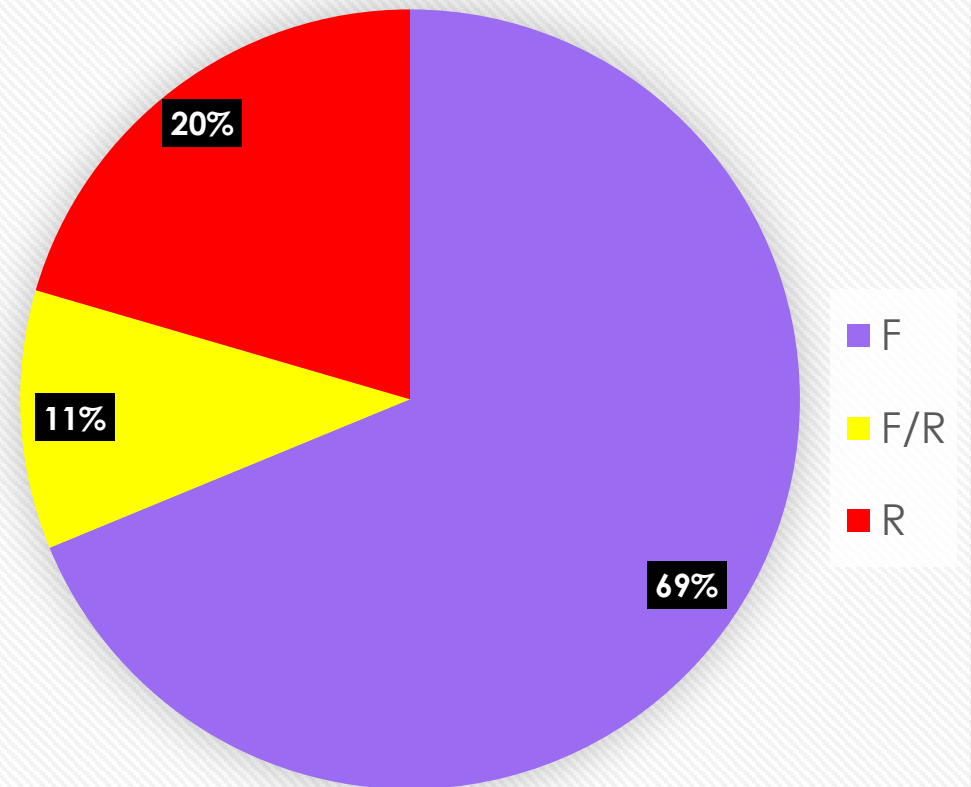




# Results

- ▶ Gender themes:
  - ▶ Story structure
    - ❖ Females were more detail oriented, following a single plot line
    - ❖ Males had multiple story lines with no concrete plot
  - ▶ Main characters were always the same gender as the child telling the story
  - ▶ Life and death were common among both genders
    - ❖ Death was associated with the “bad guy”
  - ▶ Both genders had “good” vs. “evil” storylines

## Fantasy vs. Reality



Most children (both males and females) told stories with both fantasy and reality content.

# Discussion and Summary

**Limitation:** Due to Covid19, I couldn't collect my own stories

**Strength:** Data set contained a large amount of stories from male and female students

- ▶ **Males told stories with more violence and aggression**
  - ❖ Most commonly used word was dinosaur
- ▶ **Females told stories that were more domestic**
  - ❖ Most commonly used word was princess
- ▶ **Results are consistent with previous research indicating similar gender associated themes in preschool children's storytelling**
  - ▶ Observation research supports these gender roles by showing that children show gender-stereotyped attitudes towards toys, associating dolls with girls faster than dolls with boys (Rabelo, Bortoloti, & Souza, 2014).

