

# Case Study 1.2: Observing good teaching

The Grade 1 teacher Juba was talking at the end of the day with a colleague Tabitha.

Juba: I'm so pleased with what happened today at school.

Tabitha: What were you doing?

Juba: The children had been looking forward to Tia's grandmother, Grace, coming into school to tell a story. She told us a story called 'Boxes on the Bus'. She brought a big cardboard box in with her.

The story was about all the different people who get on the bus. Each person is carrying a box. Sometimes the box is big and sometimes it is small. There is something in each box. Grandmother Grace asked the children to join in when she said 'And in the box was a ...'.

She asked the children to guess what was in each box on the bus. Sometimes it was something very small, like a button, and sometimes it was something very big, like a goat. Each time someone got on the bus with a box, Grandmother Grace asked a child to come to the front to think of an action. Praise pinched her fingers together to make a button and Innocent made up an action for the goat by 'walking' four fingers up his arm.

After she had told the story once, I asked the children to help Grandmother Grace tell her story. She chose two children at a time to come and do the actions with her and to repeat each part of the story after her.

Tabitha: What did Tia think of having her grandmother come to school?

Juba: That was one of the best parts for me. Tia is usually so quiet and sits at the back, and doesn't join in. But today she was smiling and doing all the actions. She sat at the front and said proudly to her friend, 'That's my Grandma'.

Tabitha: What are you going to do tomorrow about the bus story?

Juba: I'm going to ask the children to tell me the story of 'Boxes on the Bus'. Then we are going to make a big book of the story, with words and pictures. Also, I've also found another story about a journey on a boat to read to the children next week.

Tabitha: You could bring in an empty box like Grandmother Grace and ask children to make up a new story.

Juba: Good idea! We could do 'Boxes on the Boat' with different objects and animals.