

PLURI Online course

Languages in focus: From EU policy to Multilingual education

Project PLURI - Plurilingualism for better education, cohesion and linguistic diversity -
CERV-2024-CITIZENS-REM-EUINTEGRATION

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The Sprachspinat® Concept: Combining Language Education and Education for Sustainable Development in a Playful Manner

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Blog: [Sprache-Spiel-Natur.de](https://sprache-spiel-natur.de)

Languages in Focus: From EU policy to Multilingual education

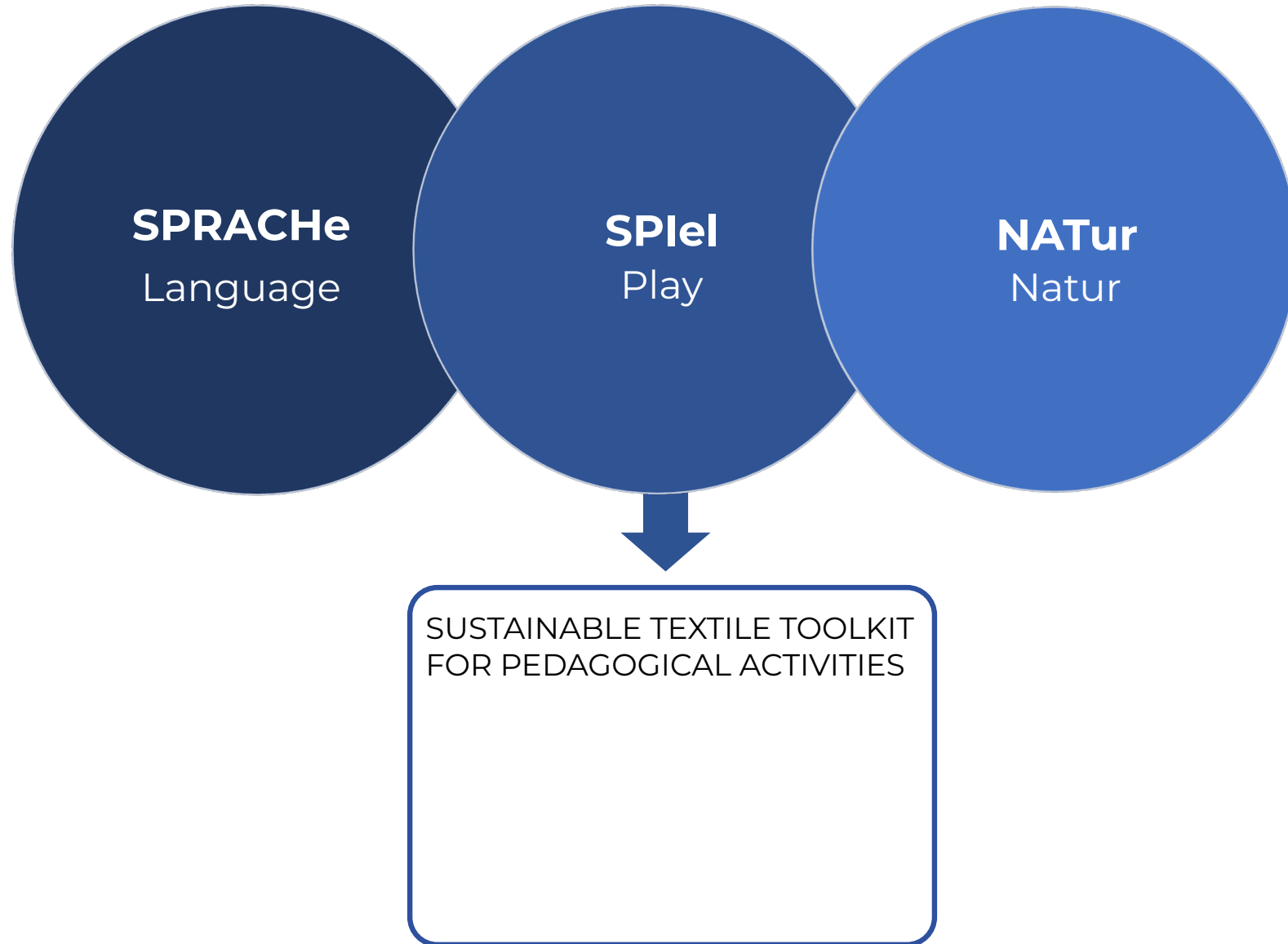


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Sprachspinat®



Sprachspinat®



The Sprachspinat® Toolkit

Components

- cape
- reusable hook-and-loop mats
- attachable strips and shapes
- ID-holders
- connectors & strings

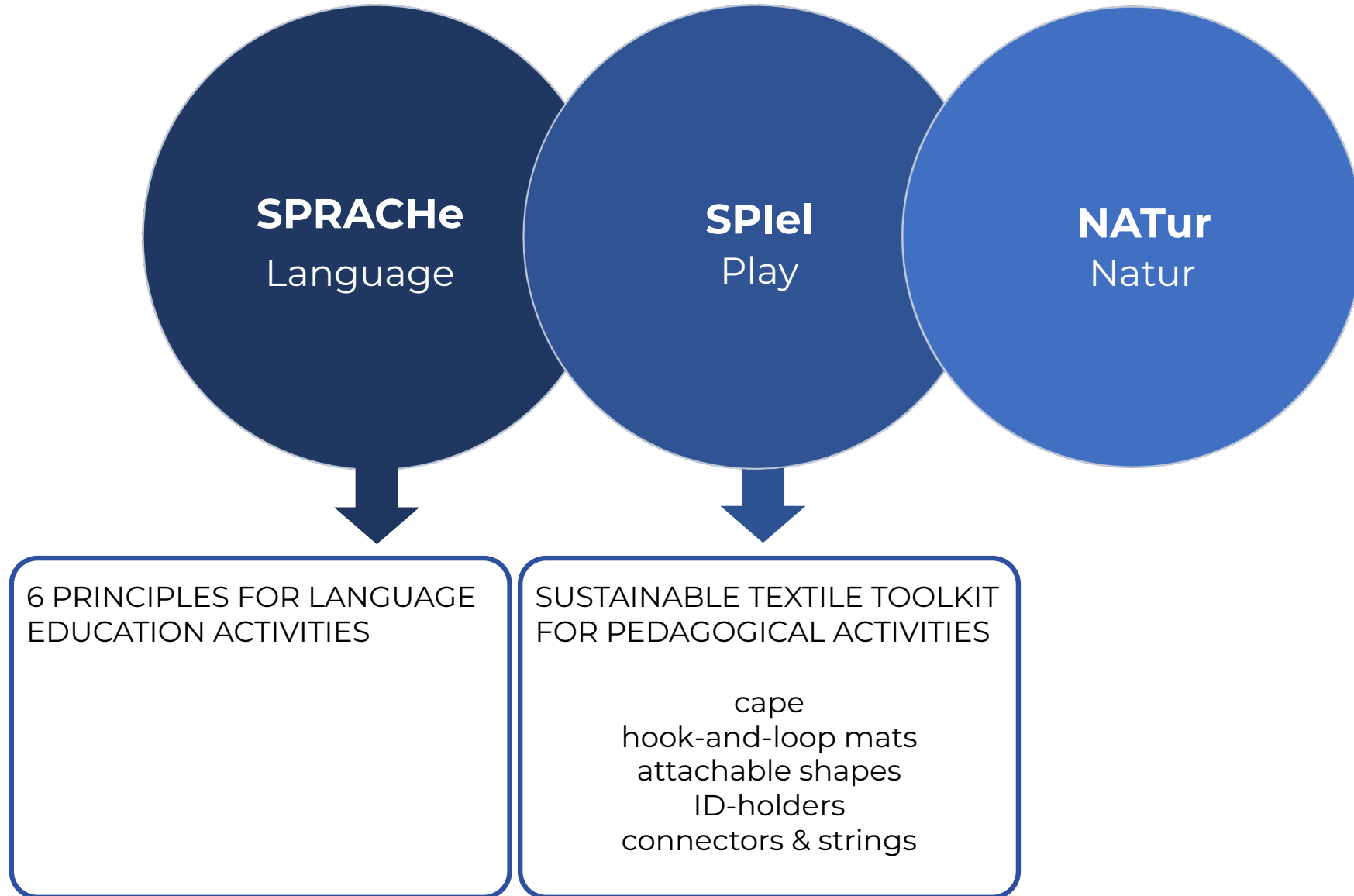
Sustainability

- reusable coelt / reumponents
- mostly upcycled materials
- no more laminating cards
- easy vs. difficult attachment options
- helps display natural materials



Photos © Sonja Eisenbeiß

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6 Principles for language activities

C Contexts

C Communication

C Culture

C Contrasts

C Combinations

C Consensus

1: Create Contexts for communication through joint attention

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Photo © Sonja Eisenbeiß



Encourage everyone to jointly focus their attention on the same objects:

- shared workspaces
- joint tasks for small groups
- shared surfaces

Benefits:

- easier word learning
- longer conversations
(Moore et al., 2014)

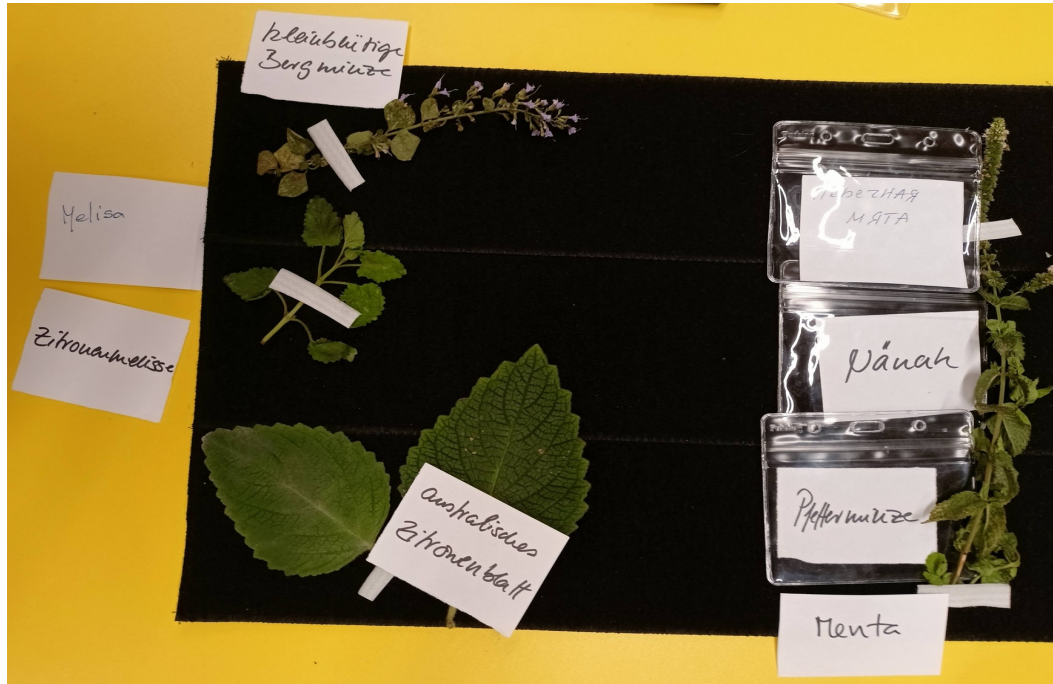
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- ## Benefits:
- language learning with all senses
 - collaboration leading to conversation
(Eisenbeiß 2010, Kuo 2019, Yule 2013)

3: Build Culture through rituals and the inclusion of all (language) cultures

Photo © Koopkultur e.V.



- Further ideas: @KlasseSprachen (YouTube); Bredthauer et al. (2021).

Introduce multilingual

- rituals such as welcome routines,
- tasks like labeling, finding info, or displays,
- signs, posters, and reading materials.

Let learners choose which language(s) to use.

Benefits:

- enhanced cognitive and linguistic performance (Eisenbeiß, 2025; Torregrossa et al. 2023, 2025)

4: Create **C**ontrasts for increased language awareness and complex language production

Create contrasts between:

- similar but different objects,
- the same object in different positions,
- different forms of the same word, e.g., small vs. small-er.

Benefits:

- richer and more complex language, e.g. additional color or size adjectives
- enhanced language awareness (Eisenbeiß, 2009, 2010; Long et al., 2021)



Photo © Sonja Eisenbeiß

5: Create **C**ombinations of repetition and variation for memorizing and generalizing

Example: *There are so many **berries** here! Which **berries** have you found? Have you found the **raspberry** bush? Oh! I have found the **raspberries**! And you have found the **blueberry** bush! Great! Where did you find the **blueberries**?*

Use

- many repetitions of individual word forms,
- a variety of words that follow the same rule, e.g., berry-berries and cherry-cherries,
- variation sets: short sequences combining repetition and variation.

Benefits:

- memorization through consistent repetition
- generalization through variation (Ambridge et al., 2015, Küntay/Slobin, 1996, 2002, Slobin et al., 2011, Moran et al., 2019)

6: Establish **C**onsensus on Feedback

Offer feedback options:

- explicit correction (That's incorrect),
- meta-linguistic explanations of errors (The ending is missing.),
- implicit correction (e.g., rephrasing in answer).
- Include gestures and facial expressions.
- Be consistent.

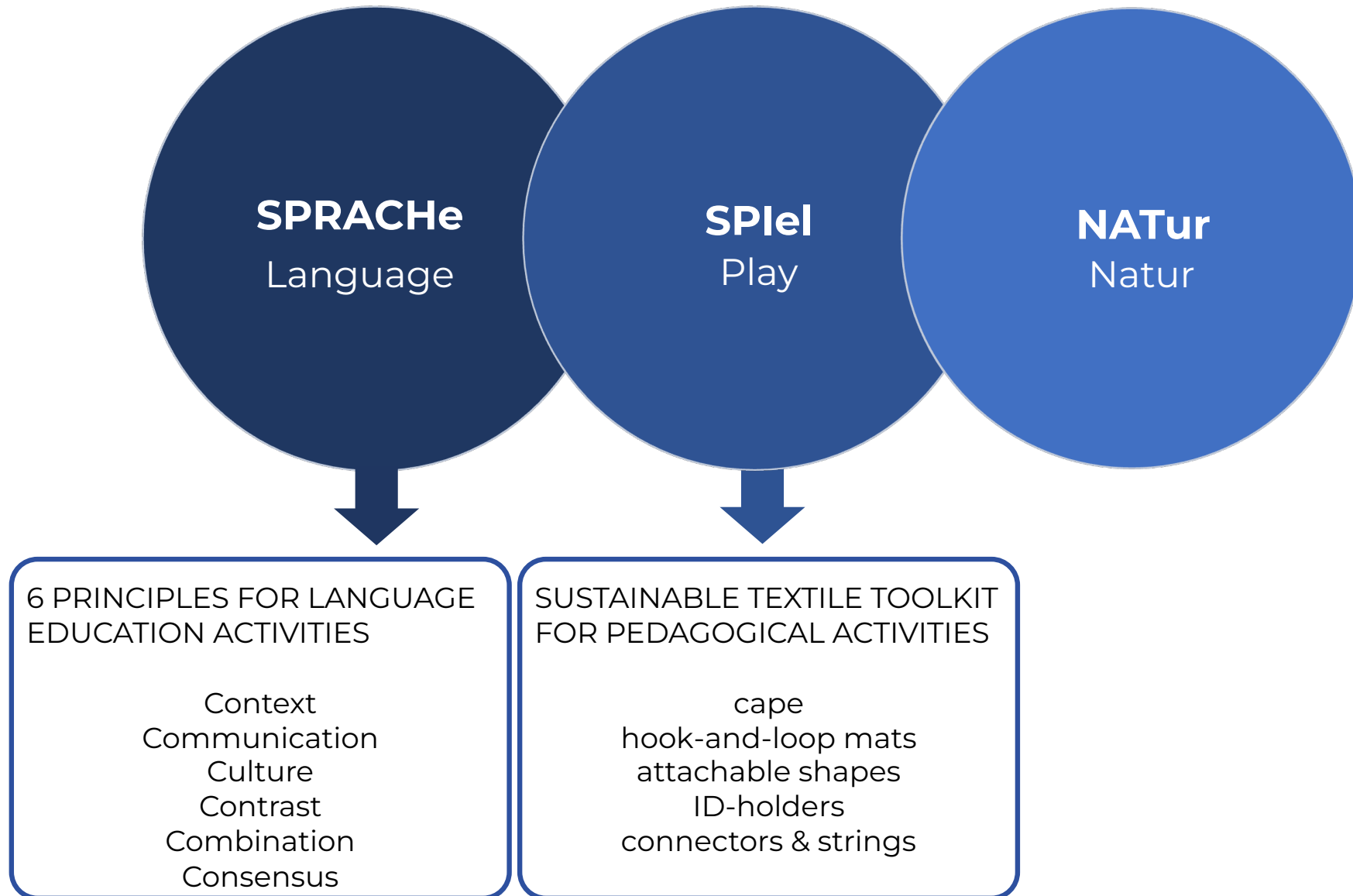
Benefits:

- explicitness: short-term accuracy
 - explanations: understanding
 - implicit feedback: free conversation flow
 - consistency: memorization
 - choice: confidence
- (Ellis et al.; 2006; Mackey 2012)

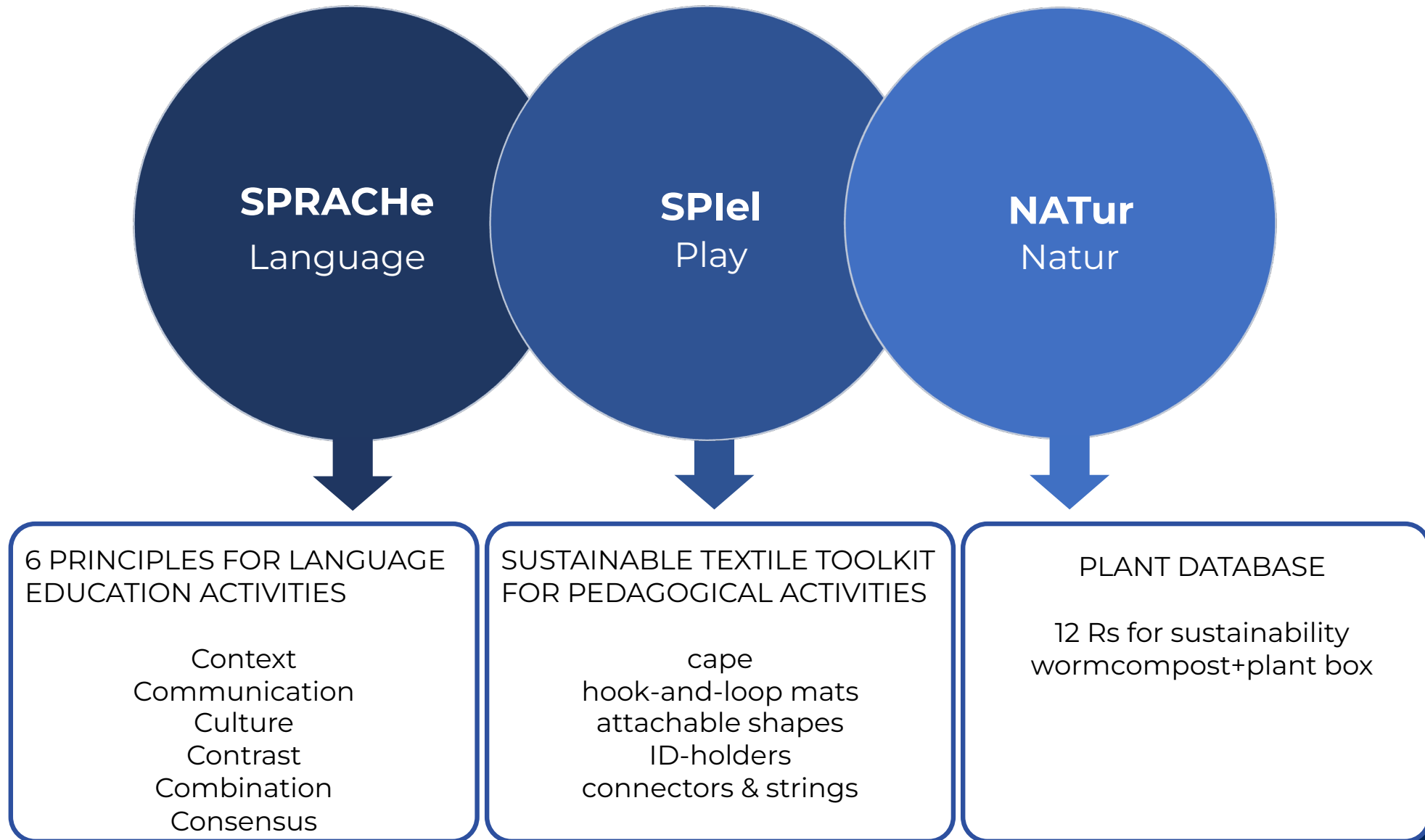
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The Sprachspinat® - Garden: Plants

kitchen garden

nature: edible plants

word structure: compound
with recurring elements
(*cocktail* vs. *beef tomato*)

insect garden

nature: insect friendly plants

vocabulary: compounds
with common words (*cranes-bill*)

climate garden

nature: plants adapted to
heat, flooding, or drought

grammar: complex names
(*creeping thyme*)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

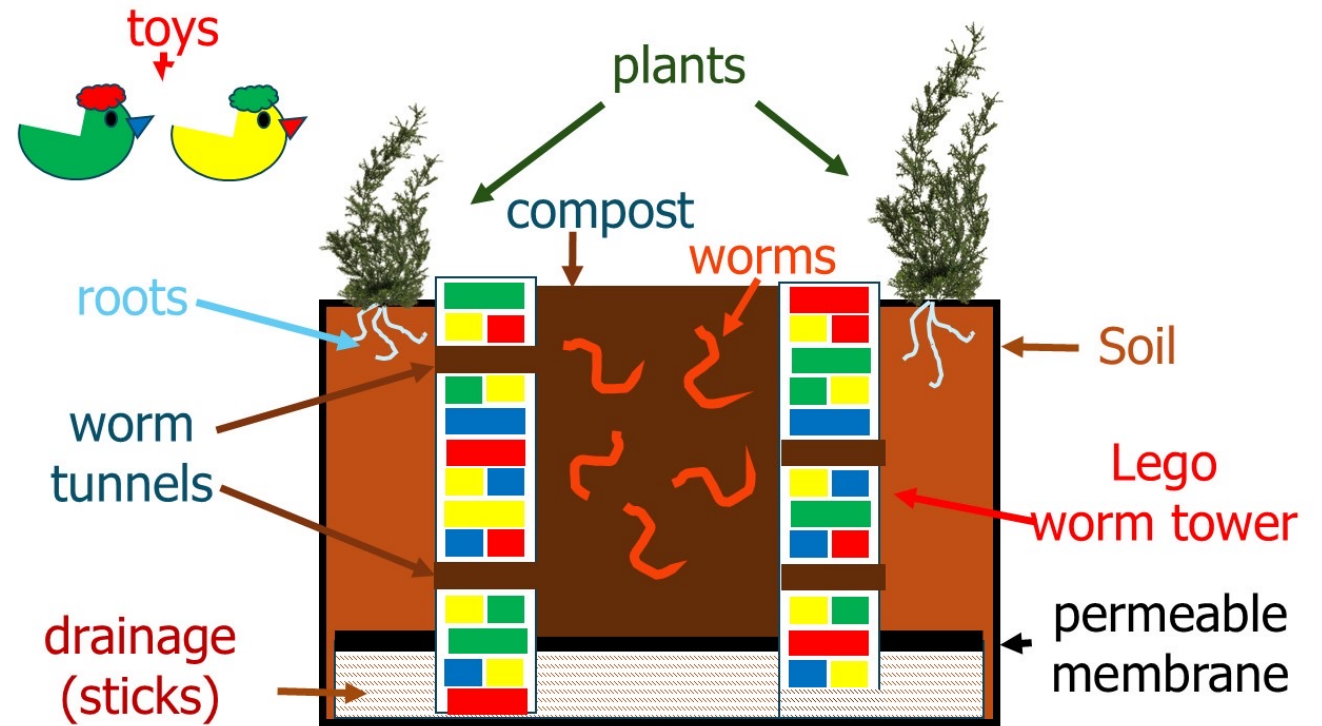


Other Sprachspinat® - Garden Components

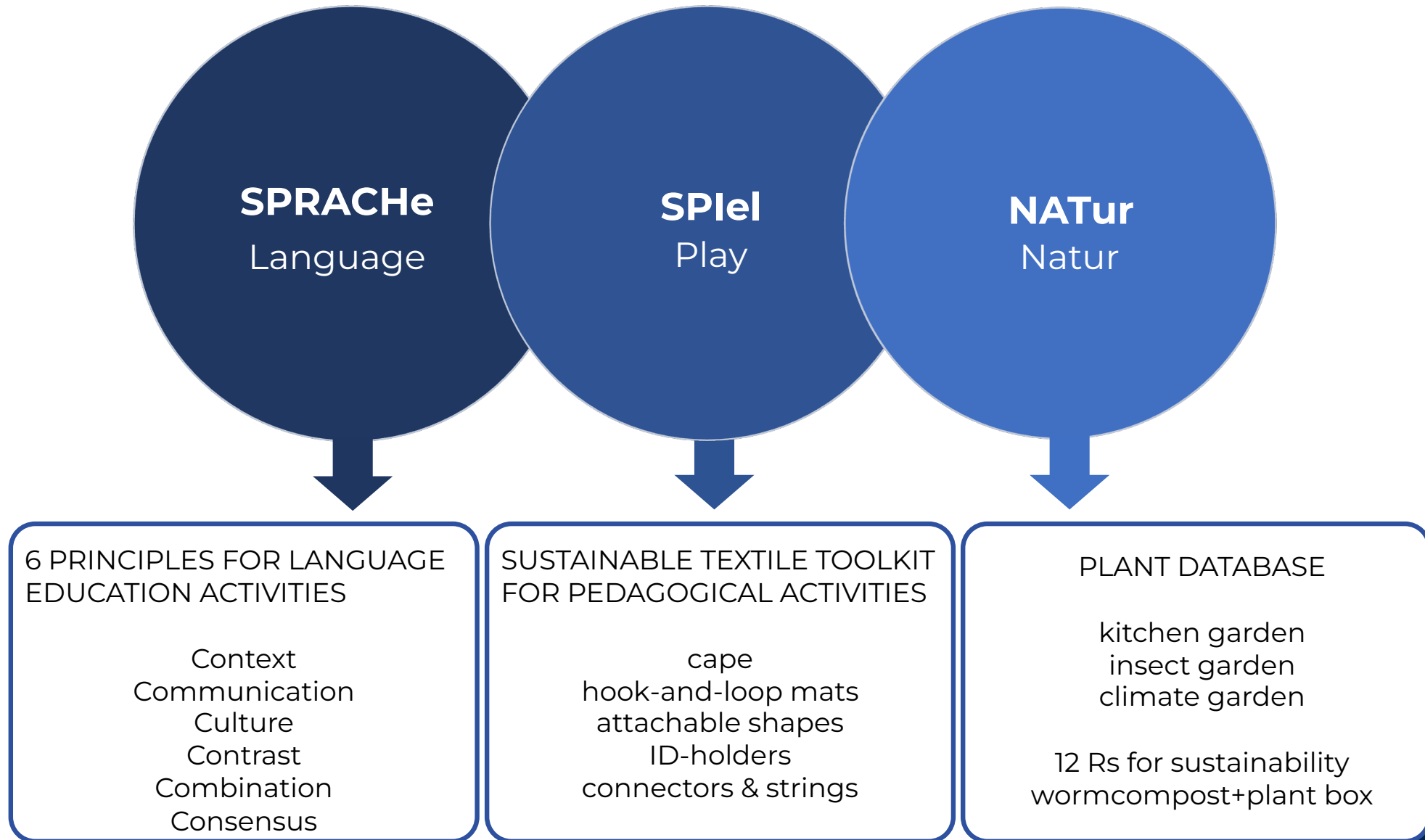
12 RS FOR SUSTAINABLE GARDENING

1. refuse
2. reduce
3. reuse
4. recycle
5. rot
6. repurpose
7. repair
8. replace
9. regift
10. rethink
11. regrow
12. regenerate

"WuPf" worm compost + plant box



Sprachspinat®



Wrap-Up and Reflection

- How could you implement the **Sprachspinat**® concept in your own pedagogical activities?
 - How could you apply the 6 principles for language activities in your project?
 - How would you combine language education with education for sustainable development?
-
- Contexts
 - Communication
 - Culture
 - Contrasts
 - Combinations
 - Consensus



Photo Sonja Eisenbeiß©

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More Information about Sprachspinat[®]

Visit the Sprache-Spiel-Natur.de website to find more information and a blog article containing the slides for this presentation and further readings and resources.



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