

Storytelling

CPD Module



Storytelling is currently undergoing a huge revival as educators everywhere are rediscovering its power as a teaching tool. Everybody loves a good story. Apart from being entertaining, a good story has the capacity to attract and hold our attention as it teaches us important lessons. Storytelling is very relevant to current concerns about education today, together with the importance of attention to individual sensitivity, cultural references and social inclusion.

This CPD module provides a series of activities that draws attention to the importance of storytelling as a teaching method and about ways in which storytelling can be used to engage learners, leading them further towards reading for pleasure.

Objectives

1. To develop an appreciation of the importance of stories for adult learners.
2. To develop skills in locating stories with relevant themes (e.g. the stories from around the world) to use in teaching and integrating them constructively into the Skills for Life curriculum, with particular reference to developing speaking and listening and reading skills.
3. To develop an appreciation of the value of visiting storytellers and ways of using them effectively in the classroom.
4. To develop an understanding of the value of storytelling as an empathetic approach.
5. To develop an appreciation of using community resources.
6. To gain practical advice on how to get support from local libraries, the arts council and the local community.

Session plan

1. Start with a story

Storyteller sets the scene with a story.

2. The importance of stories and other creative activities

Listen to and discuss a story which helps participants recognise the importance of stories in their own lives and the lives of others, as well as those from different backgrounds and how such stories can be sources of themes for lessons in life as well as in education.

Discuss what other creative resources are used by practitioners, such as poetry, film, theatre and drama.

3. How stories fit in with the adult core curriculum

Group discussion about the importance of stories as one way of helping students to respond positively to subjects and show how stories work in relation to teaching literacy and numeracy to adults.

Remind participants about the importance of sensitivity regarding economic or cultural references.

4. Guest Storytellers

Talk with participants about how to bring local people and their stories into classrooms: local elders, parents and other members of the community could be invited to tell their stories – or even to perform poetry, song, dance etc.

Give an example here of a really good story you have heard like this and invite participants to do likewise.

5. Sourcing Guest Storytellers

Discuss with participants the importance of carefully preparing both guests and classes so that the visit is a successful and enjoyable educational experience. Draw attention to local storytellers and storytelling networks. Make links with the Arts Council and suggest that this is often a way to secure funding to work with visiting storytellers and other creative artists.

6. Finding and using community resources

Show participants how to identify and use the local Arts Council, Libraries, Drama Groups. These can all be useful in helping the practitioner to extend and develop learners' confidence and understanding and to enrich their experience of other arts.

7. Conclusion

Participants are asked to review the workshop and indicate how they feel about using the stories in their teaching.

8. Recording and reflecting on this CPD

Say to participants:

We hope that this CPD module provides you with food for thought as well as some practical approaches to use with your learners. We have provided a sheet for you to record some of your main learning points. This should be helpful if you are asked to cascade ideas from this session to colleagues.

You can use the time that you spend working through the module towards your Institute for Learning CPD requirement. With that in mind, we have encouraged you to reflect on your own learning and practice throughout.

We suggest that you should note in your reflective journal which of the professional standards (for teachers, tutors and trainers in the lifelong learning sector) you have met through this activity. Information about the standards is available through the LLUK website at <http://www.lluk.org/3376.htm>

The Institute for Learning website, REfLECT can be found at: http://www.ifl.ac.uk/services/p_wvv_page?id=171&session_id

Developing classroom practice

After completing this training module, practitioners should feel confident to further improve the speaking and listening and reading skills of their learners by using creative methods and activities which will enhance learner participation and enjoyment.

Increased knowledge

Their learners should gain a variety of experience in and acquire a basic understanding of what is required to improve their own communication skills and personal development thus improving their self esteem and confidence and to develop understanding of other cultures.

Self awareness

Learners should acquire an awareness and sensitivity to their fellow beings, the world around them and better understanding of issues like the environment, global warming and other problems related to being part of a whole world.

Attitude

Learners will experience new feelings of concern which, in turn, will help them to acquire increased values which will motivate them to participate in and perhaps even suggest activities.

Skills

Learners should acquire improved skills for identifying, anticipating, preventing and solving problems.

Participation

Learners should develop a sense of 'team' and the motivation to be actively involved at all levels in working towards attainment. Learners will grow in confidence.

It is envisaged that this module will be delivered by a trained storyteller. You can contact The Society for Storytelling <http://www.sfs.org.uk/> and access their storytelling directory http://sfs.org.uk/storyteller_directory

For information about National Storytelling Week, visit:
http://www.sfs.org.uk/national_storytelling_week

The Scottish Storytelling Centre's website is at:
<http://www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk/>

The Reading for Pleasure suite of materials:

- CPD modules: Reading for pleasure in a number of contexts
- Storytelling: CPD unit with lesson ideas
- Families, Learning and Storytelling: Using archives for community cohesion
- Take Your Partner: Engaging emergent adult readers
- Technology and Reading: How to use blogs, wikis, iPods and e-books to promote reading
- Putting two and 2 together: Creating a bridge between literacy and numeracy learning
- Resources for libraries: Guidance on how to engage families to read for pleasure

