

Storytelling Skills for School Settings

Richard R O'Neill

With ever with pressure from government, Ofsted and parents to constantly increase levels of success at school, an increasing number of people in education are rediscovering storytelling and the benefits it can bring to educators and the students they work with.

Storytelling skills for school settings has been developed alongside teaching staff and leadership teams in both primary and secondary schools to help:

Increase communication between colleagues, children, their parents and carers as well as other school partners.

Increase creativity, speaking, listening and levels of reading and writing.

Increase motivation and self esteem.

To further develop imagination.

Promote and increase attendance.

Help ease transition from primary to secondary

Storytelling skills for schools settings has also been developed to help promote inclusion and value diversity.

Most children and adults love a good story, this course will show you how to harness that love of story for the benefit of all within your setting.

By attending this course and learning storytelling skills you will be able to enhance your storytelling skills and enjoy doing it.

You will also be learning how storytelling skills can help you and your school with:

- Engaging children and adult's imagination
- Motivating reluctant readers and writers
- Bringing out the best in others
- Grabbing and keeping children's attention

- Accessing skills that will increase your creativity, allow you to create new and imaginative ways of enabling learning.
- Communicating memorably with children, colleagues, parents and carers, allowing you to challenge stereotypes and perceptions in a fun and productive way
- Developing transition from primary to secondary
- Identifying connections between your school and the wider community.
- Allow meetings to be less formal and more productive.

Impact/Outcomes:

Understand how you can use storytelling skills to enhance your current skills and enable new ways of learning in your setting.

Learn how storytelling can be used as a communication and team building tool to cut through organisational language, and allow people of all ages within your setting and the wider community to really connect with each other.

Consider how storytelling can allow children and adults to express themselves, no matter what their accent or how they speak.

Understand that storytelling values difference, allowing us to communicate effectively and creatively with all children whatever their current level of literacy including those who have special educational needs and those for whom English is an additional language.

Learn from a number of successful projects in schools throughout the country.

To consider how to use storytelling skills in your own role and to encourage others to use them where appropriate.

To enable you to create your own storytelling resources.

Who Should attend:

Anyone who wants to improve their communication with children, parents, carers, colleagues, other professionals and to a wide range of individuals and leaders within their communities.

Schools staff, including teachers, literacy coordinators, teaching assistants. Leadership team members and particularly anyone who

has responsibility to directly communicate with colleagues, school partners, parents the wider public and the media

Programme: During the session you will:

- Be coached through some basic storytelling skills
- Be told stories
- Discuss examples of good practice and case histories
- Tell your story from your first exercise
- Learn and practice more advanced storytelling skills
- Learn the very latest story4writing techniques
- Re-tell your stories
- Develop your own stories
- Be introduced to and practice Richard's unique, tried and tested methods, including; the 'plastic stacking chair,' the 'Pink Barbie Bike,' and 'How big is a bull.'
- Discuss and be coached on how you are going to use these skills in your work

Duration

One day (9.00 – 3.00pm)

Tutor Richard O'Neill

What the delegates say;

We'd have often switched off by now on an inset, but this is brilliant!
Teacher Khalsa Primary Slough

Opened my eyes to the joys of stories again C. M Reading ambassador

Hello Richard,

I just wanted to say thank you for the training yesterday. It was fantastic. In the future, I would love to arrange for you to come in and work with some of our children. I am sure you get booked up well in advanced but I will get my literacy co-ordinator onto it. Anyway, I am off to do the Pink Barbie Bike story with Year 5 this afternoon. MH Head teacher

"Good practice in encouraging enthusiasm for literacy and storytelling"

"Lots of good ideas and thoughts from this session."

"Inspiring and made me think of how to use stories in my teaching"

“Liked roundabout teaching children according to their ideas; story writing/idea process is perhaps not as linear as we teach children.”

“He highlighted practical and exciting ways to teach which is very beneficial.”

“Very inspiring”

“Very useful advice, ideas that can be used throughout the primary school”

NQT’S York St John University I felt more able and empowered by the end of the day S.H Deputy head teacher

Richard was an excellent facilitator who made me feel very involved yet would constructively offer tips and support

D.W Schools partnership and resource manager

When I heard an author was coming in to inspire the year 6, I wasn't very excited although I do like reading. However from the moment you started-you had me hooked my eyes were glued to you the whole time your creativity had me and the audience captivated. You definitely managed to get the message across that there is more to life than video games. I don't know how you did it as many of the children in year 6 are not easy to convince. Saima Year 6 Bradford

Richard O'Neill is a sixth generation master storyteller and author from the Romany tradition. His 'all original' stories, books and plays, are inclusive, inspiring, funny, traditional and contemporary, with strong themes of inclusion, identity, community and ecology. He delivers workshops and performances across the key stages.

His skills at encouraging children's reading and writing through storytelling have been rewarded with a National Literacy Hero award, and an outstanding from Ofsted.

Richard believes that the joy and benefits of storytelling are for everyone, and has developed a number of stories for EAL and SEN pupils.

His book 'Yokki and the Parno Gry' has been called 'A perfect reminder about the power of imagination' by the Sunday Times.

His 'outstanding' writing guide 'it's our write' encourages children and older students alike to explore their culture and surroundings, and to get writing.

Richard is passionate about storytelling and the positive impact it can have, and as such delivers a growing number of his unique storytelling skills training sessions for professionals.

Richard's joint heritage gives him a unique take on literacy, and a desire to include and celebrate all cultures, including White British.