

# • how we can support students' emergent literacy skills by focusing on oral storytelling through a variety of genres, activities and mentor texts We will be sharing a collection of evidence—based strategies, activities, and routines for you to consider.

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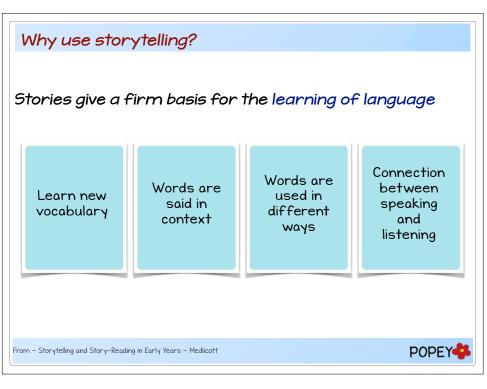
# Benefits of Oral Storytelling

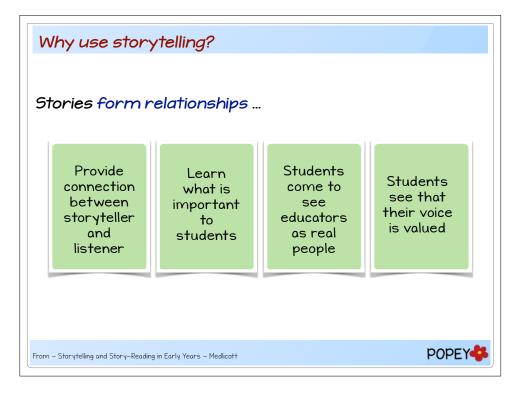


- ✓ develops strong listening skills
- √ builds vocabulary
- ✓ enhances memory recall
- ✓ builds community
- ✓ students create pictures in their heads while listening

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# \* Talk time starts with a talking circle and a simple story · Kai went to a birthday party this weekend. · Slowly build on it with the class, throughout the week \* Students get the chance to... · say a story themselves, and · hear the story being told over & over again, with the same language provides scaffolded support as students build confidence with oral storytelling and language

### Different Kinds of storytelling



### Personal Stories

Students feel confident with their own stories - they know them inside out.

### Students:

▶own these stories

▶cannot be corrected

Duse language to describe their experiences

work their memory muscle when telling stories

From - Storytelling and Story-Reading in Early Years - Medlicott

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### Different kinds of storytelling



# Making Up New Stories

Recipe for creating a story ...

### Basic Ingredients:

- ▶ A main character a person, creature, or even an object
- ▶ A task delivering a gift, solving a problem, obtaining an object
- ▶ Incidents encountering hardship, finding help, overcoming difficulties
- A resolution problem solved, happiness secured, quest fulfilled

From - Storytelling and Story-Reading in Early Years - Medlicott



# Sit Spots: Storytelling inspired by observing nature



- \* self-selected spots that students can return to many times
- \* promotes careful observation and reflection
- \* stories can be factual or imaginary, or a blend of both
- \* stories can blend what they're seeing in the natural world with their own lives e.g. maybe that spider has soccer practice later
- \* students might imagine what plants or animals are thinking or feeling; what would they say if they could talk?
- \* repeated visits to these sit spots can also highlight changes in the seasons and how these plants and animals are impacted

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### Sit Spots - making up new stories in nature

- \* Choose one photo
- \* What story do you imagine taking place there?
- \* Write your ideas down and then share with the group











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### Different kinds of storytelling

# Story Workshop



Story workshop invites children to think, imagine, design, and create when given purposeful materials.

### Students know that:

▶ their story is worth telling and sharing

▶ there is no wrong way to tell a story

▶ they can problem solve through play

by they can invite friends to listen and engage in their story

Opal School: Why Story Workshop?


## What is the connection between literacy and arts?

Questions that inspired the beginning of story workshop...

- \* What might be the role of play?
- \* What happens when we infuse writing workshop with ample use of the arts and time to play?
- \* How do the voice and the choice that results when we invite children to create and tell their stories lead to a classroom practice of democracy?
- \* How does this practice both rely on and reinforce equity and access for all?

Choose one question to reflect on and share your thoughts with your table.

Story Workshop: New Possibilities for Young Writers - MacKay



## What is Story Workshop?

Story Workshop is a structure that supports language and literacy development. Adults work <u>alongside</u> children as they explore prepared environments and experiences.

They may consider...

- \* Where do stories live?
- \* What stories do I want to world to hear?
- \* What stories do I need to tell?
- \* How do stories influence me and our community?



Story Workshop: New Possibilities for Young Writers - MacKay



# Why Story Workshop?



Story Workshop helps teachers work with students who exclaim they have nothing to write about during writing workshop.



### Students start to understand that they:

- \* can be curious about the environment around them
- \* are competent communicators
- \* have important stories to tell
- \* can make connections to other people's stories
- \* have big emotions they can explore and share with others

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Story Workshop: New Possibilities for Young Writers — MacKay

## What role does curiosity play in learning?

The 'wonder' aspect of curiosity – the why and the how quest for understanding rather than fact finding

A goal of curiosity is to prepare the mind for learning. It prepares us to be ready to decide which information we want/need to attend to in situations



Asking an engaging question can create a more long—lasting value (desire) for learning novel information.

For example - "What do you think happens when ...?"

Children have a natural motivation to explore the world, but we can encourage a more important motivator to explore the mind.

Motivating a Love of Learning presentation - Bonawitz



## Different kinds of storytelling

# Working with Picture Books



Picture book stories are funny, surprising, or scary - they evoke emotion.

### Students can:

- ▶retell the story in their own words
- bchange endings or details of the story
- Dechoose stories that they are most interested in
- Describe beginning, middle, and end of a story

From - Storytelling and Story-Reading in Early Years - Medlicott



## Activity Time! Ideas for Oral Storytelling

Using one of the following ideas, come up with a plot outline for a story you could tell.

a new slide at the playground

a summer holiday at the lake



a magic shell on the beach

a hollowed out tree in the forest



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# Sharing the Wealth - your current practice

What instructional routines and strategies do you currently use to nurture and support storytelling in your classroom?

Share a favourite activity, genre, mentor text, or routine with your neighbour.





### Sources

### **Books & Presentations**

Units of Study - Calkins, The Reading and Writing Project

Storytelling and Story-Reading in Early Years - Medlicott

Story Workshop: New Possibilities for Young Writers - MacKay

Motivating a Love of Learning presentation - Bonawitz

### Digital Resources

Opal School: Why Story Workshop?

Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children

BC Early Learning Framework

### **Videos**

Twitter: Child reading a story

Youtube: Engaging Children in Oral Storytelling to Support Oral Language Development

J Allair - Kindergarten Story Workshop inspired by Opal School







Contact me...



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