

Storytelling

Why tell?

- Storytelling is part of **natural human behavior**. Oral traditions have been passed down through our history. We tell stories to each other every day.

Stories provide **cultural maps** for us. We learn how to behave in an environment by the stories we hear.

Stories **improve children's education**. Research shows that students of teachers who use stories have better retention of vocabulary, content, and key ideas. Also, the students are more likely to read on their own and communicate their ideas to others.

Stories prompt people to **share their own experiences**. The sharing of experiences from different backgrounds promotes **tolerance**.

Make the story your own:

After you've chosen a story, you need to make it your own in order to tell it well and get the most out of the experience. The following table shows how one learns through storytelling:

Map of Learning

1. Noticing that a concept is unknown
2. Making sense of the concept
3. Making personal meaning of the concept
4. Working with the meaning
5. Changing behavior because of learning

Learning Through Storytelling

1. Finding a story to tell
2. Telling the story
3. Expanding or changing the story
4. Mentally processing the story
5. Making the story your own

Delivery Skills:

Voice: Have an appropriate volume for the audience size and the type of story you're telling. Use clear language. Try character voices if you feel you can pull it off, but be sure to make them consistent.

Rate: Be sure not to rush. Be comfortable with pauses in between your sentences and when you forget what you're saying. Also use pauses to build suspense. Take time to BREATHE!

Facial Expression: Smile. Make sure your expressions match the emotions of your characters.

Movement: Try acting out or miming the different actions of your characters. Make sure any movement you make, including hand gestures, is purposeful. Also, any action should be big and exaggerated. Don't be afraid to be goofy!

Props and Costumes: If you want to use props, make sure that they are manageable and fit your story. Don't overuse them, and don't use anything that covers your face or mouth.