

Personal Tales: The Stories from Our Lives

A Storytelling Workshop with

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Introduction

Stories help build strong families and strong communities. When we tell the stories of our lives to the children we love, it gives them a sense of belonging and identity. Stories pass on values and help our children understand who they are and where they come from.

1. One good story begets another. If a family or teachers begin storytelling sessions in their homes and classrooms, they may find that the young people will offer their stories, too. This creates a wonderful opportunity to practice language and listening. It may also prompt children to write or dictate or dramatize their stories. Tell your story, then listen to the children one at a time. Savor the children's stories.

Sample questions which bring good stories*

Tell us about the first time you learned to skate... or steer a wheelchair.

Tell us about the first time you learned to ride a bike...skateboard,,,horse, etc.

Tell us about your favorite place to play -or- the secret spot you go when you are upset or just want to be quiet.

Did you ever make a really big mess? Tell us about it.

Tell us about a pet you used to have.

Tell us about a time you got in trouble.

2. Stories get better the more we tell them. Tell yours to several partners.
3. Write, illustrate, or act out your story. If youngsters are involved, let the children be your guide. Let them direct the story play.
4. Make the story rich in your own mind. Go for a:

Sensory Walk

Pretend you are in the environment where your chosen story takes place.

What do you see around you? What is the weather like? Is it day or night?

What colors do you see?

What do you hear nearby? far away?

What do you smell? Is there anything to taste?

Is there something to touch or pick up? Is it light, heavy, rough, smooth?

5. Create a notebook to keep your story collection. Allow plenty of time to write.

* from Davis, Donald, Telling Your Own Stories. 1993 August House 1-800-284-8784