

Story Telling and the Pre-School Education

“Education is the manifestation of perfection that is already there in man” according to Swami Vivekananda. Crone are the days of one man shows of teachers in class rooms. Teacher student interaction plays a vital role in making the child learn letter, more especially when the transaction of teaching and learning takes place between teacher and a child of three to six in his or her preschool.

The transaction of learning and teaching in children can be more effective only in a congenial atmosphere , charged with love and affection, where there is much scope for the child to make the best use of his/her imaginative faculties. A pictorial representation of a story or a fairy tale besides the explanation of the teachers or grandmother and grandfather will certainly leave a telling impact on the child, who is just a bud, which when nurtured nursed and nourished properly will blossom to become a wonderful and even a loveable flower of a sweat fragrance.

Story telling is the best technique of teaching, which we have been using for generations. My grandfather used to explain me the

greatness of many of the mythological characters at bed time, after lunch and supper. I follow the same in the case of my daughter. The stories the children are told are really highly interesting and informative, which would insure that the upbringing of the child is done in a systematic process.

The two major aspects of the advantages of storytelling in the case of children are developing the child of storytelling within themselves and leaving them scope for broad lining the span of this concentration. When they find it amazing to listen to the stories of the grandparents they concentrate, focus and probe deep into the mystic meaning of the story that expands their moral fabric. There are a plethora of stories for children which increase their intellectual depth that suits variety of contexts, they encounter stories about animals, fairy tales and folk lore would make their education livelier.

Stories are useful in infusing a sound knowledge of the historical, cultural and mythological legacy of our country. Children evince a great interest in the stories of the Mahabharata, and the Ramayana and the Panchatantra They are provided with the example of Arjuna

finding the eye and nothing else on the tree. This makes the children get boosted up in being focused and target- oriented.

Boosts up listening skills: Holding the children's attention on their lessons is often very difficult. They cannot concentrate on the academic work for a long time with a capacity of sustenance because they are play full and even mischievous. Story telling is very much use full to draw the attention of the children on all their academic tasks at a later stage of learning.

Imaginative Language Learning: Learning at school begins with the learning of language the way for which is paved by stories and pictorial representation of things in the text books. Learning by doing is the order of the lay.

Children learn to find the similarities and differences between people, animals, shapes and sizes. The stories can also teach children the everyday activities like cleanliness and personal hygiene. Story telling is the best method which can be adopted to carry out the process of teaching and learning which does not put the children to a great stress. The beauty of stories is that they can be realistic or incredibly

fantastical. They can be reading about children growing up in exactly the same situation as them one minute and about another species, Martians, holidaying on Jupiter, for example children strongly feel as if they come into contact with people of different regions, countries and forms of culture of the world, the activity of learning is done early by children.

Source of Relaxation: According to Francis Bacon, an English essayist of the 16th century “Reading maketh a man” Children place themselves in the roles of Lord Rama, Lord Krishna, Bheema and so on with reference to the Indian mythological characters, on constant reading and get relaxed from the stress and strain of the day.

Feelings and Emotions:

Children in their formative years, start identifying themselves with the characters they read about. Reading the stories also help the children understand that they are just like the other children. We also live in the same conditions as they do being watch full in the case of the feelings of sadness and fear in the children.

Ameliorates their cultural Awareness:

Stories show the children how the world looks like in a broad spectrum. Reading the stories of specific personalities like Dhruva, Shravana kumara and Uttara kumara makes the children call their imaginative skills to function.

Interactive Communication:

According to Mahatma Gandhi “Education means all-round development of mind body and spirit”. When the children are yielded much scope for reading the stories Retelling them in their own words discussing the aspects involved in the story and interacting with the elders about the story will beyond any doubt, enhance the levels of understanding of the children. The characters of the story would also become their models for a happy and a successful life stories, full of adventure would certainly impact and influence their senses.

Test of Memory:

Story telling is an excellent way to Sharpe the child’s memory. While reviewing the story, they can be asked questions from the middle of

the story to the minutest detail to test their memory. Questioning can help them retain the information for a long period.

Learning made easy:

Story telling would prove to be more purposeful in tapping the reservoir of the children's energy in the academic activities to the best use in future. It is rather making the children ready to read the world and its compensates.

Socializing the children's Behavior:

“One cannot be a good speaker, unless one is a good listener” Teaching a language begins with the inculcation of the focus skills such as listening, speaking, reading and writing. Education will get hampered and hindered if it does not take place in a healthy atmosphere and if it just pushing information into by rote memory. Children can also realize that individuals differ from one another in their opinions. Taking all these benefits into a serious consideration parent's spending quality time with their children is really worthwhile. Children evince a preformed interest in the stories of the panchatantra.

Fostering Creative Thinking:

The kids have to be creative once they have an opportunity to express themselves. They have to be highly creative to think ahead of what happens next in the story. Here, the free play of imagination comes into the picture, besides coming up with a plot some unique characters and their traits.

Imagination is a wide open world when kids tell their own stories and that means they can be the main protagonist, with untold desired activities and then go through experiences they dream of having. The kids name the characters after their siblings and friends, out of affection. They even tell the adventures of the pets in the outdoor when nobody is watching. They come up with novel thoughts and ideas that nobody has told them earlier. This can be the starting point for the children to be even more creative.

Imbibing Presentation Skills – Organizational Thought:

Describing the story in an organized manner with a clear beginning, middle and end is the most important trait, the children imbibe listening to the stories. Story telling is the best way to strengthen the bond with the children when it comes difficult to chase then children while running, it is much easier to grab, capture and captivate their attention while telling their bed time stories. Science, history, culture, mythology etc can be easily dealt with by adults, while teaching the children by way of telling stories. The grand fathers stories still ring in our ears.

Story Telling

- Develop listening skills.
- Develop language.
- Helps in sequential thinking.
- Develop concentration and focus.
- Develop expression of emotions.
- Develop Dramatization skill
- Sow the seed for problem solving.
- Relaxation
- Increases their cultural understanding
- Makes learning easier
- Enhances their communication skills
- Develops imagination
- Fosters creative thinking
- Develops parent child and teacher child interaction

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