



# IMPORTANCE OF STORY TELLING AMONG PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

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## ABSTRACT:

Story telling is most interesting and engaging activity to nurture the Preschool child's personality. A story is a narrative account of an event or a sequence of events. A good story always has a core element of truth and moral. The story must be consistent and authentic. Storytelling is an interactive art of using words and actions to reveal the elements and images of a story while encouraging the listener's imagination. However, this traditional method of early childhood learning has faded somewhere in this techno-oriented world. We depend on gadgets to tell stories to children. But despite advancements in technology, gadgets remain devoid of the 'human touch'. And one disheartening fallout is that the importance of storytelling for children is slowly diminishing. Hence there is an urgent need to take an initiative to redefine this method again. The objective of the present paper is to analyse the importance of story telling and help the Pre-school children for their all round development with the help of management, teachers and parents.

**Keywords:** Storytelling, Pre school children, moral stories, pre school education.

## INTRODUCTION:

Storytelling stimulates the brain of young minds as we try to connect the messages children not only absorb the information but feel the emotions too. Storytelling brings language learning alive and creates a participatory and immersive experience that allows children to enjoy hearing the language in a dynamic, stylistic and entertaining way. Children who have enjoyed storytelling in class often ask for more stories and also feel motivated and encouraged to create and tell, act out or illustrate their own stories in a variety of ways. Stories convey the culture, history, and values that unite people. When it comes to our countries, our communities, and our families. The act of storytelling among pre school children appeals to different learning preferences and personalities ensuring that from the shyest to the most active of students, everyone has a chance to participate in a way that they can enjoy. This ranges from listening quietly to taking part as an actor. Stories offer everyone a chance to enjoy language and discover new worlds, new words and new things

about themselves. (Robin, 2008). Creating digital stories in education brings with it a number of different variables that impact instruction and student interactions.

Nowadays, we spend most of our free time glued to the screens of mobile phones, tablets, or other such gadgets. We seem to depend on gadgets to not only make our lives comfortable but also to fulfil our emotional needs. A conversation with loved ones is always special and makes us feel good. The same holds true for children as well. They love to converse, listen to stories, or make up a story and tell it to others. Stories hold enormous power over our minds and hearts for a reason. They are how we think, how we make sense of information, how we define ourselves, and how we persuade others. According to brain research, storytelling engages areas of the brain related to cognitive control (Lehne et al., 2015), The use of technology in storytelling allows students to engage their peers in the telling of a story (Lisenbee and Ford, 2017). The creation of an animation allows for the documentation of the children at one point in time, their images, and their voice. The use of technology within this classroom is seen as a means to capture or document student work. By animating a child's story, teachers provide a greater level of engagement and understanding by visually representing the action through the movement of the child's drawings, adding sound effects, and having the child narrate. Digital storytelling is an especially good technology tool for use in instructional settings as it combines researching, creating, analysing, and combining visual images with written text (Cherry, 2017). Stories play an integral part in the early childhood learning program.

### *The benefits of telling stories to children:*

- 1. Imbibe culture and tradition:** Telling historical and traditional stories will help the children to understand and stay connected to different customs and traditions prevalent in the family. Various celebrations and past incidents will give the children ideas about the various traditions in the world.
- 2. Enlightens ethics and virtues in children:** While listening to stories children try to emulate the attributes of characters and situations of the stories in their real life. Traits like honesty, truthfulness, gratitude, courage, wisdom, and many others are built and inculcated in the young minds. Stories must be narrated in such a way that they end with meaningful messages, good morals, and ethical lessons among children.
- 3. Stories Excite Imagination:** Listening to stories stimulate a child's curiosity and imagination endlessly. Fantasy is the key to exploration and creative thinking. The rich imagery in the mind inspires a child to play around with ideas and create experiences without the fear of being judged or criticized.
- 4. Stories Build Vocabulary:** By listening to stories, children get to hear many new words. They love to hear their favourite stories over and over again, thus they become familiar with new vocabulary. Language development will enable the pre school child to express clearly and well.
- 5. Stories Deal with Emotions:** Stories play a crucial role in developing the child's social and emotional skills. It is far easier to talk about feelings and emotions through the characters in a story than to try and explain them to the child. Children often struggle with difficult emotions such as sadness, anger, jealousy, and frustration. Connecting these emotions into a story is a safe way to get the child to understand his own feelings and learn to regulate them, the way the characters do in the story.

6. **Stories Instil Values:** Teachers and parents can accomplish certain commands through storytelling. Stories help a child imbibe values in an enjoyable and stress-free manner. A story with good morals remains fixed in a child's memory and instils certain values in them.
7. **Short Stories are Engaging:** Short stories are an excellent tool to comfort children, especially when they are upset and need help to settle down. A simple narration of what is happening at the moment becomes a short story. Short stories are just enough to sustain a child's attention span as well as arouse his curiosity and imagination.
8. **Bedtime Stories are Comforting:** Children love to listen to stories at bed time along with their loved ones. Listening to a bedtime story is soothing and calming at the end of a hectic day. It takes the child from wakefulness to drowsiness, preparing him for a good night's sleep. And when parents cannot spend quality time with their child during the day, putting him to bed with a story lets him know that he is loved and cared for.

## EFFECTIVE WAYS FOR STORY TELLING

The effective way of story telling is plan the story well in advance, try to use simple language that the child can understand. Its important that the teacher or the parents should maintain eye contact with the child, modulation of voice is a must so that the children gets attention and concentrates on listening to the teacher. Plan the pauses at critical moments during the story. Narrate the story with different modulations and encourage interaction of the child while narrating the story and make it very interesting.

## CONCLUSION:

In children, storytelling provides many psychological and educational benefits, such as enhanced imagination to help visualize spoken words, improved vocabulary, and more refined communication skills. Storytelling has become an essential part of teaching and learning in the pre school program. Through storytelling, the children can be connected to real things and bring those facts to life.

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