

Autumn 2009

the **SLD** experience

For professionals, parents and those working to support children and young people with severe and profound learning difficulties

Issue 55

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In this issue:

Mark Barber	3
Creating cultures of intensive interaction in special schools in Australia and New Zealand	
Nicola Grove	8
Stories for lifelong learning	
Val Hobbs	10
Maximising the progress of learners with profound and multiple learning difficulties	
Mark Fox and Tom Laverty	17
Using quality circles to help think about the challenging behaviour and emotional distress of children with severe learning difficulties	
Michael O’Keeffe, Jean Ware and Jill Porter	23
Students with severe learning difficulties speak of their experience of ‘friendship’ in mainstream schools	
Dawn Male	29
Recent research	
and	31
What’s new?	

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MENCAP

Understanding learning disability

new publication

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Learning to tell

A handbook for inclusive storytelling

Nicola Grove

To support the development of inclusive storytelling, this new and exciting resource from BILD has been specifically designed to help people to find personal meaning in traditional stories, and so make links between a legend and their own lives. The resource aims to enable people who are marginalised through communication and language difficulties, to develop skills in narrative and story. The role of stories in their lives is the same as for everyone else – stories are fun and interesting, help you to make friends, understand the world and develop your imagination.

This resource is unique in its approach to the culture of oral storytelling. Traditional stories are often told by a single, fluent narrator who is in full control of a range of stories, impressing the audience through his or her verbal skills. Our approach to storytelling emphasises the participatory and communal aspects that develop an intensity of listening to the storyteller and an atmosphere in which a contribution told from the heart is valued for what it communicates about our common humanity.

You can use these practical materials flexibly or integrate them into a more formal course for accreditation on the Open College Network course *Inclusive Storytelling*. With a raft of information, games, activities and stories, and an accompanying DVD containing video footage and PDFs of forms, this resource can help students develop the ability to narrate, which is fundamental to human experience.



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