

# Reaching Out to Reggio

Since 2006, Replico has pioneered innovative expressive arts strategies for early years in the Stewarton and Loudoun learning partnerships. Projects have been designed in consultation with early years staff and management and delivered by experienced arts in education specialists. More recently, we have conducted research into *The Reggio Approach* and discovered a wealth of links to *Curriculum for Excellence*.

This DVD documents a series of expressive arts workshops with complementary CPD which took place at Cairns Nursery, Kilmarnock in the spring term of 2009. It features activity sessions and comments from staff and is being distributed to all early years establishments in East Ayrshire as a model of good practice and the basis of future CPD.

Each learning experience focuses on raising achievement with special emphasis on literacy and numeracy while recognising the value of free play in an enjoyable and safe learning environment. Child-centred activities engaged with *A Curriculum Framework for Children 3 to 5* (see below) using a combination of familiar texts and newly developed material as a stimulus.

**Titles include** *The Gruffalo. The Princess and the Wizard, The Night Pirates, How to Catch a Star, The Blue Balloon*

**Key success factors**

- Child-centred approach
- Active learning
- Emphasis on literacy & numeracy
- Documentation (DVD)
- Pupil, staff and parental inclusion

Key Aspects of Children's Development and Learning	Specific Skills	Suggested Activity
Emotional, Personal and Social Development	Turn taking / Sharing Social skills Confidence / Self esteem	Games Role Play Interactive storytelling Songs / Rhymes Word / Letter games Illustrated stories Animated storytelling (acting) Puppetry Counting games Different materials / textures Painting / Drawing Sculpture / Collage Percussion Music / Dance
Communication and Language	Listening Extending vocabulary Basic literacy Appreciation of books	
Knowledge and Understanding of the World	Nature / Technology People and places Basic numeracy	
Expressive and Aesthetic Development	Colours / Shapes Spontaneity Imagination / Curiosity	
Physical Development and Movement	Rhythms Co-ordination	

## Background and strategic overview

### *The importance of pre-school education*

*The vital contribution of pre-school education lies in developing and broadening the range of children's learning experiences, to leave them confident, eager and enthusiastic learners who are looking forward to school.*

### **A Curriculum Framework for Children 3 to 5**

Over the last ten years Replico has been at the cutting edge of arts in education strategy in Scotland, producing a breadth of high-quality workshops and live, digital and printed resource material for schools across the country. The company has attracted numerous commissions from the SAC, the Scottish Executive (FLaT), Local Authorities and LT Scotland. In recent years, the company has been instrumental in the delivery of EAC's *Creative Minds* development plan for Drama and Literature.

In developing a strategy for early years literacy and numeracy we have suggested the following as possible frameworks for delivery.

#### **0 - 3 Parent & Toddler groups**

Duration 30mins

Book of the day, vocal & physical awareness warm-up  
Breakout stations - multisensory, movement, voice/alphabet/  
number shapes, free play with props  
Conduct all breakout skills into the Book of the day

#### **3 - 5 Nurseries/ Pre-school centres**

Duration 45mins

Book of the day, vocal & physical awareness warm-up  
Demonstrate/enter world of story  
Small groups reinforce knowledge of book of the day  
Story telling game cards,  
Props i.e scarves, ribbons, nursery resources  
Act out / expand / invent small scene

#### **Early Primary**

Duration 45mins-1hr

Vocal & physical awareness warm-up  
Large group enter a 'world' artist led  
Small groups create a story (games/sensory stimulus  
using picture/word cards, music, props etc)  
Establish setting Establish Characters, Action (what will happen)  
Share with large group. Group can change things (Boal style)  
Discuss their creations

These activities can be used to explore any of the following themes – Fairy Tales, Myths and Legends, Seasonal festivals, Other Cultures and Languages, Nature, Space, Transport, Healthy Living...

**Delivery should include regular scheduled artist visits, taster sessions or one-off events as required, in conjunction with CPD opportunities to maximize sustainability.**

## Sample Lesson Plans

### The Gruffalo 45mins

- Circle time:** Introduction – Listening Ears! Watching Eyes! Smiling Mouth!  
Discuss last week’s story – what do they remember?
- Physical & Vocal warm up: song – Head, Shoulders, Knees & Toes  
Game – “Emma Says” (Simon says)
- STORY** (Asking children about setting, characters, what happened in the story etc)
- Whole group work:** What does a Gruffalo look like – discuss parts of his body!  
Gruffalo statue  
Walk like a Gruffalo – introduce music. When music stops:
- Gruffalo mean facial expression
  - Gruffalo laugh
  - Gruffalo scared facial expression
- Game – Gruffalo’s footsteps (What’s the time Mr Wolf)
- Circle Time:** Discuss other animals from the story – explore the noises  
Goodbye song – Hickory Dickory Dock
- Final activity:** Forest collage! Using backdrop on the floor – children create a picture in a whole group or on own using various materials (fabric, paper, wood etc)

### The Night Pirates 45mins

- Circle time:** Introduction – Listening Ears! Watching Eyes! Smiling Mouth!  
Discuss last weeks story – what do they remember?
- Physical & Vocal warm up: songs – If you’re happy and you know it & Row Row Row your Boat
- STORY** (Asking children about setting, characters and what happened in the story etc)
- Whole group work:** Game – Port Starboard
- Artist in role:** Using music, ask the children to think about pretending to be pirates – what would they dress like? Move like?  
Children close their eyes – set the scene on board the pirate ship.  
Wake up as pirates, get dressed!  
Move about the pirate ship, Freeze as a pirate statue. Transform into shadows, then pirate ships, then treasure chests.  
Each time ask the children to physically do and vocally tell.  
Explore sound effects
- Circle Time:** Whole group tableau – chose the characters from the story to be in the picture; then the children create
- Final activity:** Discuss what could be in the treasure chest?
- Goodbye song:** Pirate song