

An Enterprising lesson	
Subject	Moving Image Education P7 – Dingwall Primary School
Lessons	Creating a Short Film / Animation

Brief description

The children created a storyboard and wrote a script, and then working in small teams produced a short film.

“Enterprising” it!

1. How we made learning **relevant** by putting into a **real context**

The audience was not only the whole school, who viewed the film, plus parents who were shown it on the P7s leaving night – but also other schools within the community who attended an ‘Alberts’ oscar style award ceremony held at the ‘Arts in Motion’ film studio.

Producing a real film for a real audience really inspired the children, particularly in their writing. To work to a completely new format, without the usual constraint of worrying about punctuation, spelling etc, really motivated the children to put a great deal of thought and effort into their storyboards

We looked at the many roles involved in producing a film, and discussed the attributes needed for the various roles, and every child was allocated their part in the film making.

The highlight was attending the real award ceremony , complete with red carpet treatment and with everybody dressed for the occasion – lots of glitz and glamour!

Three pupils were allocated to make our acceptance speech and collect our ‘Albert’

2 How we encouraged pupils to take **responsibility**

Pupils were given ownership and responsibility for the whole film making process. In pairs they collaborated on storyboards / scripts and then the children voted on their favourite ‘parts’. All major decision making was voted on by the whole class. These were then incorporated into a final storyline by the scriptwriting team.

The children were allocated roles - camera person, props department, producing credits, director etc. The variety of roles meant everybody was involved in whatever capacity they wished , with some of the roles being shared if needed.

Any problems had to be tackled and solved by the pupils –e.g. not long into filming the need for a continuity person was realized! Problems accessing props / costumes were discussed and solved.

The very nature of creating film means children automatically work in a co-operative manner.

The teachers role was to provide support and advice and to help with the technical process of editing the film.

3 How we involved partners in learning – building **relationships**

External = Business / Community / Parents & Families

Tim Flood , a Lead Practitioner for Scottish Screen advised us and helped with the editing. Arts in Motion –a local film company hosted the award ceremony.

Tim Flood has recently returned to the school to assist every year group in the school to make a short film for the Highland year of Culture.

Internal = Other adults in school

Classroom assistants and LSA not only enjoyed being involved in supporting the whole process but in dressing completely over the top and acting like film stars for the day for the award ceremony!

4 How we **reflected** on its success - assessment

The range of skills involved in a project like this are extremely wide and varied. The pupils all acquired new literacy skills and depending on their role many new ICT skills.

All pupils acquired an understanding of the nature of moving images, something they are almost constantly bombarded with. To be literate in the 21st century children need some understanding of the media through which most of their information will come.

For many of the children their role in the process was a large boost to their self esteem and led to improved behaviour.

The skills and interest acquired was also demonstrated by the pupils who went on to choose film / animation in the summer term as their activity afternoon option.

The project generated much interest among pupils and any subsequent films / animations made by pupils throughout the school can be seen at www.dingwallvideos.blogspot.com

5 **Review** - further ideas for development

Ours was a large scale project involving the whole class and with some specialist help. However it is simple to apply the same process to small teams working independently within the classroom to produce their own movie.

In terms of ICT skills and access to equipment, the easier option is to produce an animation. Almost any type of model can be easily animated using a simple web camera which can be acquired for about

£30 and editing software. Groups have no difficulty working completely independently to produce short animations.

Another simple idea is to use Windows Movie Maker and just add pictures to a piece of music –a step by step guide is available on the BT Photo Movie website.

In terms of development -pupils can progress to adding sound effects , music, learning about camera angles, exploring different genre – the list is endless!

6. **Links** with ACfE

Successful Learners

MIE encourage children to discuss ideas and listen to others, to use technology to tell a story, to think creatively and independently, to work independently and co-operatively as part of a team, to employ problem solving strategies.

Confident Individuals

MIE allows children to take on leadership roles, taking responsibility for making decisions , to achieve success in different roles, to be able to offer an opinion but to also accept creative ideas.

Effective Contributors

Children have to work as a team to produce the initial plan / storyboard.

Children are given the opportunity to develop audience awareness, and to be aware they can communicate on a global scale through film / animation hosted on a website / blogspot. Many children went to produce photo-movies about items that were important to them e.g. Fair Trade / Animal Cruelty / Fashion etc.

They can take initiative and lead, or take the starring role – or have an equally important less visible role.

They are encouraged to apply critical thinking in new contexts.

Responsible Citizens

Children have to accept majority votes, and support these decisions. They have to work to pre-set deadlines and targets. Throughout the process they have to make decisions, deal with the consequences of the choices they have made, and learn from any mistakes.

To see our ongoing work please visit www.dingwallvideos.blogspot.com