

The Essentials of Storytelling

Bridging the Gap, Life as Abbey sees it.....

By Deb Landry

Telling and listening to stories is a fantastic way to stimulate your children's language development, promote their creativity while strengthens their capacity for objective and rational thinking.

No matter what the age, storytelling brings children closer to others, especially when the storytelling is coming from one generation to the next. When children listen to stories from parents or grandparents, the history of their family deepens and creates positive role models.

When engrossed in a story a child's imagination stretches and builds connections to feel the full extent of emotions. No television show, computer game or movie, no matter how educational, can compare to good old fashion human communication.

When I was a child, storytelling was a part of life. I would listen to my grandmother tell stories for hours. These stories consisted of fiction and nonfiction, farm life, her nine children, falling in love with my grandfather, and many adventures of her life as a young girl growing up on the Canadian boarder are embedded in my memories forever making me part of who I am.

She was a great storyteller and an even better listener. No matter what I had to say, she listened with deep sincere anticipation. She made me feel so special, that is why I wanted to visit her on every school vacation or maybe because I was the center of her attention. Either way she made me feel special, unique and honored.

Just recently, I was reminded of all these treasured times Nana and I shared when my four year old granddaughter took an interested in telling stories. As all great parents do, my daughter reads several books to her before bedtime, tells stories of her birth and they make up stories together.

Listened to her mother over the years has given her the newfound ability to create stories of her own. "Life as Abbey sees it" consist of fact, fiction with a little twist of unexpected comedy. She has a healthy imagination that sometimes takes precedence over school and daily activities, which shapes the delicate mind of toddlers and teaches them concentration skills and enhanced interpersonal skills.

In fact, through story telling we can find out what children know, think and believe. Abbey insisted that my husband, her step-grandfather was my daughter's father. She knew this because he lives with me and he wears the ring. She was very puzzled and confused that Grandpa was her mother's father.

Through guided story telling we can teach important life lessons, instill values and enhance the true voyage of our personal family history and legacy.

The journey begins today, share a story with your children and have them enlighten you with their imagination.