Ben Kingston-Hughes



The Joy of Stories

Joy is a fundamental part of every Childhood Joy doesn't always follow the rules Joy breaks down barriers Joy underpins every aspect of development Joy is the difference between a child thriving and a child struggling



JOY =









JOY =





Foraging and exploring

Imagine a bumblebee with the head of a bull?

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Where does Imagination sit?







Young children need to feel three things when they write and mark make: joy, purpose and magic Greg Bottrill

If children see stories as something they are part of rather than as something done to them, they may just want to tell their own stories, and maybe, just maybe they might just want to write them down..... Ben Kingston-Hughes



To write meaningfully, children must have the motivation and inspiration to write in the first place. They need to understand that writing has meaning and that the words they write can be read back again.

This understanding will come from seeing adults and others around them using writing for a purpose and modelling the use of written language in a range of contexts, such as shopping lists, invitations, postcards, text messages, emails, greetings cards, storytelling and so on.

So how do children learn to speak in the first place?





Reading Stories with Joy

- Eye contact
- Seating Level
- Positioning of book
- Distractions
- Preparation
- Characters and voices





Story Lines

 1."Get out of my bathroom." Cried the princess
 2.There, at the bottom of the cauldron was a large pink frog.

- 3."Come with us!" squeaked the goblins
- 4.And then suddenly with a roar of joy, tyrannosaurus began to dance....
- 6."Aha" said detective Felix, "jam and custard footprints."

The Strange Meeting

One night three children were having an adventure walking through a mysterious . Suddenly there was a noise that sounded just like a and an enormous appeared. All three children felt very at this sudden appearance. The enormous was the most peculiar colour. Or should I say colours? Half of it was whilst the other was a vibrant . It rumbled and it bumbled as it hobbled and bobbled along making a smell that was unpleasantly like

Music and Singing

Music and rhythmic sounds are intrinsically important to development, uniquely inspiring communication and language.

Singing is also an intensive cardiovascular exercise building strong healthy lungs.

Singing is so intrinsically linked to communication and language and the only effective way to develop phonological awareness and auditory discrimination. It is now believed to have pre-dated speech!







Do our Children experience joy?

The Characteristics of Effective Learning

Playing and exploring

- Finding out and exploring
- Playing with what they know
- Being willing to have a go

Active learning

- Being involved and concentrating
- Keeping trying
- Enjoying achieving what they set out to do
 Creating and thinking critically
- Having their own ideas
- Making links
- Choosing to do things

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Give Joy the Green Light!



nspired Children

Play, Nurturing & Curiosity

Thank You for Listening

Yes Ben does come to settings! Please get in touch if you need any more information or if you want Ben to come to your setting and inspire your team.

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Check out Ben's books!

A Very Unusual Journey into Play Why Children Need Joy

"A wonderful book, engaging and easy to read, worth every penny, and thoroughly recommended." *Jim Morehouse*

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