

ECIS PRECONFERENCE DESCRIPTION COPENHAGEN 2016 PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR TEACHERS

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

1. Topic

Storytelling as teacher skill, student exploration, and springboard to writing

2. Title

Storytelling for Comprehension, Community, Curiosity, and Creativity

3. Description

This workshop will provide a hands-on exploration and skill acquisition session of professional development for classroom teachers, literacy coaches, ELL staff, and curriculum leaders. The workshop includes time spent learning stories and story techniques, understanding the rationale for story's place in education, the opportunity to work directly with students incorporating skills, and reflecting on the day's learning.

Storytelling is a powerful and accessible tool for teachers to build engagement, classroom community, reading comprehension, and improved writing. In this workshop, teachers will learn how to engage students through storytelling. Teachers will begin by acquiring and practicing story skills. They will then move to building repertoire through learning and practicing two folktales. Teachers will also explore activities to build comprehension. Teachers will have the opportunity to work directly with students and then to reflect on their experience. The workshop will conclude with a discussion of how to use storytelling elements as springboards to improved student writing.

In addition, this workshop is intended to build upon the success of last year's ECIS day long preconference session and in-conference breakout session. Participants commented that the structure of the preconference session was ideal for long-term learning, and many participants from the main conference session expressed a desire for a more in-depth story focused opportunity.

4. Target Audience

ECIS PRECONFERENCE DESCRIPTION

COPENHAGEN 2016

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR TEACHERS

Grades pre k-2 through 5th grade would be the most relevant audience, although teachers of middle school can benefit from integrating storytelling into their curriculum. ELL staff and literacy coaches can also incorporate the concepts.

5. **Expected Results**

1. Teachers will be able to tell folktales to classroom audiences.
2. Teachers will be able to lead students in explorations of story material through basic storytelling elements.
3. Teachers will appreciate connections between storytelling and other literacy concerns.
4. Teachers will know the central elements of storytelling and how to learn, find, and choose stories.
5. Teachers will know rationales for including storytelling in their classes, including brain research that highlights the importance of oral narrative in language development.
6. Teachers will understand connections between oral narrative and writing.

6. **Rationale**

Storytelling is an ancient and accessible art form. Story's natural place in our lives provides an easy entry for those who wish to explore its place in education. Research underscores the engagement, imaginative capacity, language acquisition, relationship building, and cultural understanding that storytelling facilitates. Teachers can find multiple connections to a variety of curricular areas, both for themselves as educators and for students as learners and presenters.

7. **Workshop Leader**

Stuart Stotts is a songwriter, storyteller and author from Madison, Wisconsin. He has worked as a full-time performer since 1986 and presented at schools throughout the United States, as well as internationally in the United Arab Emirates, Tanzania, Malaysia, New Zealand, and Europe. Stuart is a Kennedy Center teaching artist and leads professional development for teachers at conferences, workshops, and site-specific training sessions, focusing on topics of literacy, creativity, arts integration, and student engagement. He has released several award-winning recordings, including *Celebrate* (with Tom Pease), which has become a classic resource for teachers who

ECIS PRECONFERENCE DESCRIPTION
COPENHAGEN 2016
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR TEACHERS

work with young children. Stuart is also the author of several books for children, including “We Shall Overcome: A Song That Changed the World” (an ALA 2011 Notable Book).