

LicketySpit Storyplay Schools



Transforming lives and addressing the poverty associated attainment gap.

"The work of LicketySpit is of a depth and calibre, which is rarely found. The more parents and practitioners understand and act on the work of LicketySpit, the more young children will be given educational experiences which will serve them well for the rest of their lives."

Professor Tina Bruce CBE Early Childhood Educator.

Storyplay is an innovative tried and tested approach to addressing the poverty associated attainment gap. Following a two-week Storyplay residency with 280 P1-P7 classes, Teachers said that: **41%** of children demonstrated improvement in use and knowledge of language; **45%** of children demonstrated improved confidence; **34%** of children demonstrated improved social skills **41%** of children demonstrated improved emotional literacy and resilience.

(Case Studies available)

A Storyplay School is a partnership between LicketySpit actor-pedagogues, children, teachers, PSA's and parents which:

- Nurtures a child-centred shared story-rich culture of games, rhymes, songs, imaginary-play and performance.
- Ensures every child is complicit in a culture where they can feel secure that they are valued and will be seen heard, included and consulted.
- Embeds creativity as a core teaching tool which can be applied across the curriculum to support attainment and a means of developing positive and trusting relationships between children, teachers, parents and carers.
- Provides opportunities to embed Storyplay relational practice and methodology throughout the curriculum in line with GIRFEC and SHANAARI principles.

The latest LicketyLeap teacher evaluations (2018) on P1 children considered in greatest need suggested **88%** showed improved use & knowledge of language (**63%** marked improvement); **63%** improved Social Skills; **63%** improved emotional Literacy & resilience (**38%** marked improvement) and **88%** improved confidence -with **63%** marked improvement.

LicketyLeap regularly demonstrates profound change in children in greatest need.



Why is Storyplay Effective?

Transforming lives and addressing the poverty associated attainment gap.

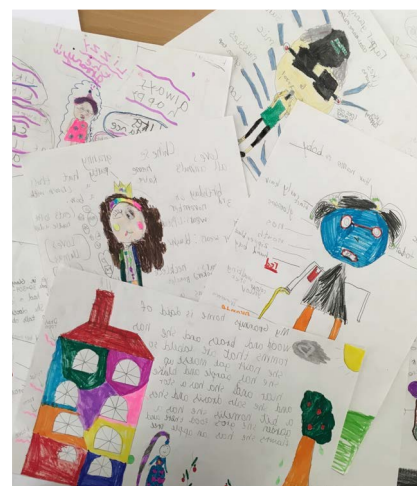
Storyplay is uniquely effective because it offers not only a philosophy and methodology but a tool-kit for a practice which can be adapted and applied incrementally to allow teachers, parents/carers and children to increasingly feel at home with it.

Storyplay Schools nurture a rich child-centred, shared culture of stories and play across a school community using a repertoire of games, songs, rhymes, stories, performance underpinned by a commitment to inclusive engagement. This culture empowers and enables children to have agency and a sense of solidarity, regardless of age, ability or background and is especially effective with children with additional support needs.

Storyplay includes class-based and whole-school sessions and family engagement through intergenerational play, food and conversation; Teacher CPD and resources support sustained impact on literacy, confidence, social skills and emotional literacy. Storyplay is underpinned by rigorous evaluation and reporting in relation to attainment. There are currently 6 Licketyspit Storyplay Schools all situated in areas of high socio-economic disadvantage. Storyplay has been being delivered in schools since 2016. So far every school has committed continuing to develop this practice.

Storyplay is a children's rights-based, inclusive approach which uses rigorously inclusive drama-based play as a springboard into learning and emotional and social development. Licketyspit actor-pedagogues engage with children, parents, carers, teachers and PSA's through the effective and popular **Licketyspit Playcard Repertoire** - 16-colourfully illustrated A5 cards containing a carefully selected, tried and tested, new and adapted traditional collection of:

- games
- rhymes
- songs
- imaginary play activities
- dressing-up
- blanket play
- reflective drawing
- story, song and rhyme creation
- story-making and writing
- and performance.



Storyplay Principles and Approach

Transforming lives and addressing the poverty associated attainment gap.

Storyplay is underpinned by the principles that:

- Everyone wants to play and feel seen, heard and included
- Circles are important because you can see everyone and everyone can see you
- Games are best when everyone is in the game
- Playing isn't about winning & losing, it's about the fun of playing together
- Scrupulous fairness is key– removing anxiety about inclusion lets participants relax and engage in the moment
- All we need to play is each other!
- Through imaginary play we can be anyone, do anything, go anywhere and become our fullest selves.

When children are confident that they will always be included, they relax, share and listen. They appreciate each other's differences and shared capacity for kindness and fun. Children from nursery to P7 love Storyplay and are empowered by it. Storyplay helps children, and adults alike to relax, connect with their playful selves, and remember that essentially what we share is greater than the sum of our differences.

The **Storyplay** approach and methodology has grown out of nearly 20 years of creative exploratory practice in early years theatre, by one of Scotland's most experienced early years theatre practitioners, Lickety Spit's Artistic Director, Virginia Radcliffe and her colleagues, with 3-7-year-olds, families and teachers.

Lickety Spit's approach to working for children is founded on the following principals:

- We are not children
- We never under-estimate children
- Everyone is creative
- Theatre is simply collective play
- The story is just the beginning...

Every class or child in a Storyplay School receives their own pack of Lickety Playcards as a toolkit for playing at school and at home.

75% of 280 children from St Mary's RC Primary in Glasgow reported teaching and playing the Storyplay games during the Summer holidays. The Storyplay Playcard 'games' are like 'turns' at a ceilidh, social currency, a tool-kit for play, imagination and relationship building.



What happens in a Storyplay School?

Storyplay includes a combination or all of the following elements:

LicketyLeap

immersive theatre for groups of ten children (usually nursery-P2) delivered by actor-pedagogues over two half-day sessions. This is The Story of Worried and Bold Margaret. Children journey through the bog, over the sea, into the cave and up the mountain to find their Heart's Desire. Parents participate in Session Two. **LicketyLeap** was Scotland's first theatre as early intervention programme and has reached over 3000 children and their teachers & families. Teacher evaluations suggest two-thirds of participating children demonstrate increased confidence, social skills, emotional literacy and resilience and ability to problem solve. Recent evaluations show increased vocabulary and improved language and literacy. Parental engagement is high. LicketyLeap shifts inhibiting behaviour patterns in children, supports their development and nurtures positive family and inter-school relationships. Children's success is shared with peers, teachers and parents/carers producing fundamental positive change. (*included in EU Studies in innovative EY practice, funded Scots Govt)

Playcard Play

using LicketyLeap's Playcard repertoire of rhymes, songs and imaginary play activities which draw on traditional street, playground play and drama-led play expertise. Playcard play is 'free' play that needs no special equipment and can happen anywhere. It includes 'blanket play' (bedspread or giant silk) and Dressing-Up (using old clothes rather than bought 'costumes'). Playcard play is a catalyst for creative writing and performance.

Children's confidence is boosted overcoming habitual anxieties about literacy because of a strong desire to express ideas ignited through the play session.

Whole-Class Playcard Play sessions

are a springboard into creative writing, drawing, group story, song and poem-making and performance creation.



Family Porridge & Play

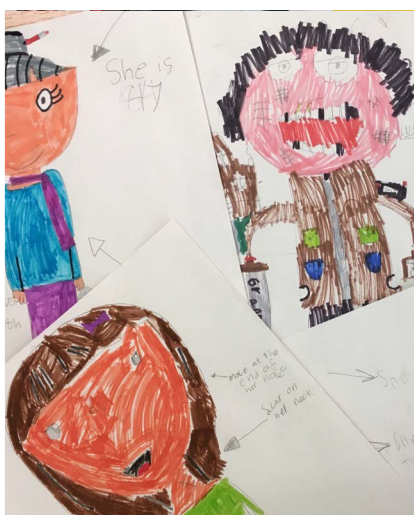
Intergenerational sessions. Parents and carers join their children's class in Playcard play and a healthy communal meal round a table – of porridge or homemade soup, delicious fresh fruit, bread, jam, tea, coffee and squash. All participate in Reflective Drawing and the Licketyspit Gallery to talk to the group about their thoughts, feelings and ideas.

Book Play

introduces a children's book to the Porridge & Play format as a source of imaginary play and performance. Every book introduces a new play world, encouraging reading and a love of books.

Story-making

a development out of Playcard imaginary play where children create, write and perform their own stories, which are filmed, performed and printed off as stories to illustrate, share at school and take home.



Picnic & Play

The Porridge & Play session round-table meal is replaced by a picnic enabling sessions to take place indoors, outdoors, in parks, woods, gardens, museums and galleries.

Playground Play

P5 & 6 Children become **Playground Play Champions**, who lead Playcard play in the playground. Children develop leadership skills and friendships with younger children. Playground Play boosts children's social skills, confidence, self-esteem and nurtures a strong sense of belonging and community resilience across a school.

Whole School Celebration Assemblies

Whole-school Assemblies are a focus to nurture and sustain whole school engagement in Storyplay. Play Champions announce 'This week's games' and report on Playground Play; lead or perform 'Playcard games' and share ideas about how to play well; Multiple classes can share each class's Storyplay activities - including game demonstration, story-sharing or performance; films, Art (Reflective Drawings) and Story Exhibitions, including photographs and children's words about Storyplay. Parents/carers can attend.

Storyplay Legacy

Licketyspit provides year-round school engagement to support teachers to integrate Storyplay across the curriculum by providing continuing CPD resources and an online dialogue with classes.



Staff CPD in drama-led play, LicketyLeap & Playcard Play

CPD is key to delivering and sustaining the strong outcomes of this approach. LicketySpit's Professional's Network supports skill and idea sharing among teachers in Storyplay schools across Scotland. Schools are invited to appoint two **LicketyPlay Champion staff members** to receive additional training and support in order to champion and embed this approach.

The LicketySpit Children & Families Network

An online and face-to-face network of children and families. Our interactive website, Facebook and Twitter, seek to foster a sense of a community among families across Scotland, who can share ideas and resources. Families sign up to receive e-newsletters and texts about further school, community and culturally based LicketySpit (and other) activities, ideas, drama, stories and play resources. **Storyplay activity is shared with families online using video, photographs, drawings and children's comments on your school's Storyplay Page on the Families section of the LicketySpit website.**

Monitoring & Evaluation

LicketySpit has a strong track record of robust monitoring and evaluation practice. We provide an evaluation model which draws on staff/parent/children and actor-pedagogue observations/ data capture/film/photography/reflective drawing. **This are collated into reports for the school in relation to monitoring developing attainment.**



What does Storyplay mean for your school?

Embedding a language-rich shared culture of stories, songs and play.

A professional theatre company in your school bringing new approaches and perspectives. The Licketyspit team develop trusted relationships with staff, children and families providing additionality to a school – ‘friends’ and ‘allies’, ‘people to ‘tell’, to ‘witness’ and ‘admire’ progress and recognise success. **The Children and Families Network sustains** relationships beyond school and opens doors to wider cultural experiences, ideas, resources and opportunities for families built on the positive child-centred values the company shares with the school. As mentioned, these values are based on children’s rights, GIRFEC, SHANAARI.

Storyplay contributes to overcoming the poverty associated attainment gap by:

- Improving literacy.
- Nurturing a story-rich culture, where language is confidently celebrated, enjoyed and explored.
- Strengthening relationships, emotional literacy, shared experiences and trust.
- Increasing children’s confidence and social skills.
- Improving children’s physical fitness, fine and gross motor-skills.
- Building resilience in your school community.
- Supporting Growth Mindset.
- Providing memorable theatre & drama-led ‘experiences’ as catalysts for learning, teaching, play and conversation.
- Working with staff and families to foster an inclusive, creative, confident, child-centred culture, where every child can flourish, and every adult can feel at home.
- Creating a relaxed, fun and creative environment where children are supported to take risks and make mistakes.



What does Storyplay mean for your school?

There are 6 Storyplay schools – Oakwood Primary in Easterhouse, Glasgow; St Mary's RC Primary in Maryhill Glasgow; Canal View Primary in Wester Hailes, Edinburgh; Riverside Primary in Govanhill, Glasgow; Wyndford Nursery, Maryhill and Ibrox Primary, Govan, Glasgow.



“There was a huge increase in parental participation in school in an area where that isn't easyit was so relaxed and so easy. They could see their children having fun yet you could see there was a lot of learning going on there. In areas like this, the data tells us the big barrier to attainment is the lack of vocabulary among children. A programme like this really addressed that – using words to describe things, using your imagination, using your creativity, and no 'right' and 'wrong answers'. It fits in beautifully with the Growth Mind-set approach – trying things out, making mistakes is ok –it gave our children a lot of confidence and a lot of space to explore words, vocabulary, feelings, stories and that invaluable stuff that we really need, to make a difference. If we can intervene in children's lives early enough to make a difference, this is where we have to start.” (2016)

Head Teacher Ann Moore, Canal View Primary - Lickety Spit's first Storyplay School.

A **Storyplay** programme and costs are designed to meet the needs and budget of your school. For an initial discussion about how your school can become a Lickety Spit STORYPLAY school, please contact

Shona Ratray by email on info@lickety spit.com

More information can be found on our **website**, **Facebook** and **Twitter** pages.

North Edinburgh Arts
15a Pennywell Court, EH4 4TZ
Oakwood PS
22 Drumlanrig Ave G34OGD

T 0131 332 1648
M 07970 749 138
E info@lickety spit.com

www.lickety spit.com
 Lickety spit Theatre Company
 @LicketyTweet