

Title of Session: Arts and Literacy - Arts and At-Risk Children

Moderator: BJ Berquist

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Room: After School Online Room

BJ: Welcome, everyone to Arts and Literacy. The topic today is Art and At-Risk Children

BJ: we usually start all Tapped In discussions with introductions...

SimeonC joined the room.

BJ: I'm an art teacher in a male juvenile correctional facility

ShaylaM: I'm a preservice teacher at the Univ. of Houston

BJ: o O (the next step after at-risk)

CristinaG: Hi I'm Cristina, Pre service teacher at University of Houston

DixieC joined the room.

CherylDW: I am a speech-language pathologist working in an elementary school

TeresaP: Hi I teach first grade in Montgomery County, Maryland just outside of Washing DC

CristinaG: Where BJ?

CrystalH: Hi, I'm Crystal a Preservice teacher at University of Houston

BJ: Dixie, we're just doing introductions

BJ: In Central Pennsylvania, Cristina

SimeonC: I'm a pre service teacher at University of Houston

DixieC: Hi, I am a pre service teacher at the University of Houston.

BJ: nice group! Before we begin, does anyone have any specific expectations for this discussion?

BJ: and what the heck is an "at-risk" child?!

CristinaG: "AT-RISK"...Children who are in unstable situations

TeresaP: I work with a lot of at-risk students...

ShaylaM: Just want to see how you approach at risk students

CristinaG: Situations they have no control over

TeresaP: lots of students from immigrant families, students on welfare, abused students

DixieC: At-Risk children are usually in a high risk group for failing or dropping out of school

CrystalH: I agree with Dixie

SimeonC: yeah

BJ: right, Dixie...and everyone else has told us who makes up that group

CherylDW: All of these apply

BJ: so, a learning disabled label isn't necessarily a predictor of a child at-risk

SimeonC: correct

ShaylaM: I agree

BJ: since the topic is ARTS and literacy for these kids...does anyone have any idea how we can use art to scaffold these fragile kids?

DixieC: I would agree as well

CrystalH: I agree

SimeonC: although there are some students that are learning disabled and in at risk situations

ShaylaM: true

CrystalH: It depends on the disability

CherylDW: I agree with Simeon

CristinaG: I use art as a meditation

ShaylaM: Maybe you can use it to help them express their feelings

SimeonC: most of the time these students are extremely talented at drawing and other arts

CristinaG: a way to relax and express myself

BJ nods to Simeon. I just wanted to point out that there are a lot of factors that put a child at risk.

BJ: Cristina, how do you use art as mediation?

CristinaG: When I need to get ideas for a lesson

CristinaG: I try to think of it from an artistic point of view

ShaylaM: do you mean meditation

TeresaP: Music is considered arts

DixieC: Art can be used to get a student interested in what they are learning

SimeonC: right

CrystalH: that is correct

CherylDW: This may be a strength for some of these children

SimeonC: it adds flavor to the ordinary lesson being taught

CrystalH: any of the arts can be used music, art, dance

BJ: yes, let's define "arts" as all the arts.

SimeonC: and students like to know that it relates to other areas of their interest

ShaylaM: Art as a whole is very expressive

SimeonC: it also makes the students active in the learning process and participation

BJ smiles...you all have a pretty good handle on how important the arts are...

CrystalH: it is a great way to get the students to relax and think

CristinaG: I saw a commercial the other day

CristinaG: I featured students and music

BJ: and it's easy to do this in the elementary grades....let's not forget that these kids are still at risk through high school

CristinaG: I believe it ended up being and ad

CristinaG: to keep Music in our educational programs

TeresaP: students who are discouraged by school in general can be encouraged with arts

CherylDW: Definitely

SimeonC: all students in some way can and do relate to at least one if not all of the arts

BJ: Just like many programs, the arts are also at risk of funding cuts...

SimeonC: right

ShaylaM: Which is a shame

CristinaG: But Arts is so important

BJ: so it's more important than ever for classroom teachers to consider the use of arts to meet the many needs of our students

CrystalH: yes, many programs are trying to raise money for arts like VH1 save the music

CristinaG: If these arts do get "cut", YES, it is up to us

TeresaP: my question is...

BJ: Some states have established standards in the Arts too...a sign that the arts are valued

CristinaG: We need to integrate Arts into our curriculum as much as possible

BJ listens to Teresa

CrystalH: I agree

TeresaP: with so much emphasis on reading and math by NCLB, what are some strategies to incorporate arts into my instruction?

SimeonC: it is up to us regardless of the funding to include all content areas in our lessons and teaching

CherylDW: Support professionals can also play a part

ShaylaM: I agree with Simeon

BJ: great question, Teresa...and exactly what this discussion is for

TeresaP: I teach first grade but I barely do anything "artsy" anymore because we have a strict guide to follow

CristinaG: What do you mean Cheryl

BJ: let's start with a resource for you...

HelgaS joined the room.

BJ: <http://www.silencespeaks.org/>

CherylDW: SLPs and others can also incorporate the arts

BJ: Hi, Helga. Welcome

CristinaG: Are we checking out this link?

ShaylaM: What are some of your strict guidelines

BJ: The Silence Speaks is for older children, but is a form of digital storytelling

BJ: yes, please click on the link and take a look at the site

CristinaG: be right back

BJ . o O (if you're new to Tapped In, you also might want to detach your chat window by clicking on the Actions menu in the top right of this chat window and then highlighting DETACH)

HelgaS: Just registered and this is my first log in - I'm getting oriented

BJ: Helga, this is a discussion on Arts and Literacy

BJ: we're talking about the arts and at-risk children

SimeonC: this is a great website

TeresaP: Really good for speaking out their frustrations

BJ: I also lead the Alternative/Correctional Ed Forum and Amy Hill was a guest speaker. She talked about this site

BJ: ready for another site?

CherylDW: Yes

DixieC: Yes

ShaylaM: This was a really good site

BJ: The site I'm going to show you is dedicated to bridging the digital divide

BJ: <http://www.headsonfire.org/hof/index.html>

HelgaS: Thanks for filling me in. I'm actually working with a community group on those issues. I'll bookmark the site.

BJ: Helga, when you log out the url will be in your transcript that gets emailed to you

CrystalH: I like the websites. It has a lot of good information

ShaylaM: They do a lot to help at risk students

CherylDW: Interesting site

BJ: You Texas folks should be familiar with the next site...and if you're not, you might want to get familiar with it!

TeresaP: Do you have anything for younger students?

BJ: it's called Opening the Minds Through the Arts

BJ: <http://www.omaproject.org/>

TeresaP: I truly believe that earlier we expose children to arts, the better problem solvers they become

BJ: this group is for K-12 students, Teresa

RosaElenaP: Hi, I just arrived.

BJ: Welcome, RosaElena

SimeonC: I have never heard of this site but it is interesting.

RosaElenaP: Thanks. Is there a way to read what you've been discussing so far?

ShaylaM: That was neat to see that the Principals and teachers are involved in the OMA schools

CherylDW: Good information. I will share this with teachers at my school

BJ: no, RosaElena, you'll have to wait for the transcript to be archived

RosaElenaP: OK, I'll listen for now.

DixieC: I haven't heard of it either but I see that it is sponsored by the Houston Symphony Orchestra and

BJ: Arts for Learning is another related site

BJ: <http://www.arts4learning.org/>

DixieC: I know that they have a program where they go to schools and play period music to interest students in subjects

BJ: I'm working on getting someone from Arts4Learning to be a guest speaker

RosaElenaP: Music subjects or multidisciplinary?

ShaylaM: That would be cool

BJ: multidisciplinary, RosaElena

SimeonC: that would be informative I'm sure

RosaElenaP: I live and teach in Mexico City, so I guess they wouldn't come down here.

TeresaP: I really like this website!!

CherylDW: I also like this site

CrystalH: The website is very good and packed with information

BJ: that's the beauty of the web, RosaElena...you can learn ways to introduce the programs yourself

DixieC: All of the sites have been great

RosaElenaP: Yes, that's the beauty of internet.

BJ: I'm going to head in a slightly different direction now...

CristinaG: I'm back

BJ: the next site I'm going to show you is Blanket the World with Peace Project

RosaElenaP: In Mexico City there is a group that uses puppets to introduce opera to children. They're good!

CristinaG: The first site you sent us too has amazing stories. I read a couple

ShaylaM: Cristina, did you visit any of the other sites

CristinaG: not yet. i fell like I might get a little behind

CrystalH: look at the Arts4learning site

CristinaG: K

BJ: the project is a digital quilt...schools and institutions can submit a digital quilt square based on the theme of "peace through the resolution of conflict"

BJ: each square can be one link deep

BJ: <http://www.cedarnet.org/emig/peace/>

RosaElenaP: Wow!

BJ: my kids did the hat...when you link from the hat you go to

<http://ti2.sri.com/archive/projects/hatsoff/>

BJ: this year I added a new component...writing

BJ: I have the kids journal as they do the project

BJ: creating symbols that represent their culture

CherylDW: I went to the site and viewed some of the art. The hats are great.

CristinaG: I love it!

BJ: once the hats are made, they reflect on the process and write about what the hat project means to them

ShaylaM: Wow

CrystalH: I like the hats

BJ: journals are a great way to connect the arts and literacy

CristinaG: Culture is such an important piece of who are students are and will be

DixieC: As a social studies person I really like the cultural aspect you can put on this project, the hats are Great

SimeonC: right good idea

CrystalH: how often do they write in the journal

TeresaP: I really think that kids enjoy these meaningful projects and it's a shame that arts is slowly being cut

CristinaG: Integrate! Isn't it great!

CherylDW: Incorporating writing is wonderful

BJ: I have weekly assignments in their journals

SimeonC: I agree with Dixie on the ways this activity could be used in Social Studies

BJ: I try to integrate as much writing as I can get away with since most of the at risk kids are behind at least two grades...some are pre-k 18 year olds

CristinaG: It's amazing how many different ways

CrystalH: oh some teachers have daily journal writing and the students seem to get tired of writing in their journals

CristinaG: You can make a lesson plan turn. It all depends on what you want to teach...Integration.

ShaylaM: How do the older kids like it?

RosaElenaP: Journal writing must be meaningful to the kids.

BJ: same as regular kids, Shayla...some complain about anything

CherylDW: But this is a way that writing would be fun and educational

BJ: and personal

ShaylaM: Your right, some love to write and some don't

TeresaP: Writing should take place everyday it's just hard to find something meaningful every single day

RosaElenaP: Some start writing and end up drawing.

CristinaG: That's why it's important to teach on different levels.

BJ: when they take ownership of the work, they are much more enthusiastic

CristinaG: Making sure to provide content in different ways

CristinaG: catering to all students and their preferences of learning

BJ: any of you familiar with ArtsConnected?

SimeonC: from my experience if you make the journal topic interesting and relate your content with their lives they will write as much as they can

TeresaP: and give them opportunities to share their work

CrystalH: my site base teacher write letters to the students and they like that

BJ: www.artsconnected.org

ShaylaM: I believe when you give them no boundaries to where they can go can really bring out their talents

BJ: you can create your own museum collection

BJ: perhaps artwork on a related theme...

CherylDW: Writing was becoming a lost art

BJ: and have the kids find what is the same, what is different

BJ: o O (compare and contrast)

BJ: There is an Arts Connected workshop here in Tapped In every month.

CristinaG: It's all in how you look at things...Be CRAETIVE!

BJ: the next one is tomorrow.

BJ: grins...I like your creative spelling, Cristina

ShaylaM: Yes, Be CREATIVE

RosaElenaP: At what time?

TeresaP: Unfortunately NCLB leaves very little room for creativity...

RosaElenaP: Teresa, what's NCLB?

TeresaP: No Child Left Behind

ShaylaM: How so Teresa

CherylDW: These activities are great for improving language skills

BJ: to find the time, take a look at the calendar. Click on the Tapped In tab at the top of your screen, and then click on calendar

SimeonC: that is not true

RosaElenaP: Thanks. You're right. Are you guys really being pressured by NCLB in the States?

SimeonC: it's all in how you teach

BJ: change the time zone to your time

BJ: yes, RosaElena, everyone is concerned

DixieC: I love the idea that kids can create their own descriptions of artwork. This brings us back to writing and unique ways for students to write.

RosaElenaP: I've heard about it, but it really doesn't affect us in international schools outside the US, I guess.

BJ: but I'm finding that you can still use the arts to meet the standards.

CherylDW: I know that our state has been affected by NCLB

CherylDW: You definitely can use the arts to meet standards

BJ: I'm going to show you my backflip files...

SimeonC: I agree with BJ

BJ: I have a lot of sites where you can integrate the arts with math, science, social studies

CristinaG: do share BJ

ShaylaM: Please do

CrystalH: yes please

SimeonC: yeah

CherylDW: I just learned about BackFlip in a class that I'm taking. I love it!

CristinaG: we are all about the integration

RosaElenaP: I'm especially interested in Science.

ShaylaM: Integration forever

DixieC: What is backflip?

CherylDW: A site that allows you to create folders of your favorites

BJ: backflip is a public bookmarking page

DixieC: Oh, I see, Thanks

BJ: you can access your bookmarks from any computer

CherylDW: It is free and you are able to share with others

CristinaG: Thanks Rosa, this link sounds like it could be a real asset

CrystalH: how long is your URL good for

BJ: I've had my folders for about 4 years

BJ: yeesh..here is my url

BJ: <http://www.backflip.com/members/bjberquist>

CherylDW: Thanks, BJ

SimeonC: thank you

BJ: you'll note that there are quite a few arts and literacy sites

CrystalH: thanks

TeresaP: Is backflip considered an online journal?

BJ: no, Teresa...just a bookmark organizer

DixieC: This is a great site for teachers...

TeresaP: okay...I like it since you can access it anywhere you have web access

BJ: one of the neat things about backflip is you can choose to create public and private folders

ShaylaM: That is a great tool to use

DixieC: You could organize bookmarks that your class could use

CherylDW: One big plus is that you can access your favorites from any computer. It is an excellent resource for teachers

BJ: right, Dixie!

CrystalH: that is a good idea Dixie

CristinaG: It sounds like it can be a great collaboration tool for teachers

RosaElenaP: So you could create bookmarks for different projects for your class!

BJ nods to RosaElena

ShaylaM: yes, cristina, it does

DixieC: I will be adding this to my list

BJ: yes, Cristina, that is also a great idea

CristinaG: Thanks

ShaylaM: Thanks

CherylDW: We have done some great sharing in an Instructional Technology class

RosaElenaP: And if it is saved on internet, you won't lose your links when your computer dies or something.

BJ: we have five more minutes...any questions or something you want to see?

TeresaP: Do you have anything else in arts in technology?
SimeonC: I've learned a lot from this meeting
ShaylaM: How else to use use the arts with your at risk kids
CristinaG: I think I would like to take a closer look at these great websites
BJ: did you look at the arts and tech folder on my backflip site, Teresa?
CristinaG: Thanks everyone for sharing
CrystalH: any more good websites
CherylDW: I look forward to looking at the sites more in depth
ShaylaM: Yes, thanks
BJ: is anyone familiar with The 4th R?
CherylDW: No
CristinaG: ?
CrystalH: no
RosaElenaP: No
ShaylaM: No
DixieC: no
BJ: in our society there is a lot of visual images...multimedia
BJ: we need to teach our kids how to 'decode' this onslaught of visual information
CrystalH: I agree
DixieC: yes we do
BJ: Jason Ohler has created a site he has called The 4th R to support this idea
CherylDW: Definitely
RosaElenaP: Decoding visual information is now part of being literate.
BJ: <http://uashome.alaska.edu/~jfjbo/fourthr/>
CrystalH: good info
CrystalH: i plan on taking a closer look at all of the sites after the discussion
SimeonC: this is great
SimeonC: yeah me too
CherylDW: I will take a look after this session
RosaElenaP: Thanks for sharing all this.
DixieC: This does look interesting
BJ: I hope you've learned a little and are excited about integrating the arts across the curriculum
TeresaP: I really like that website
TeresaP: thank you for all the good information
CrystalH: I have and all of you have been a great help
CherylDW: Thanks for sharing your information, BJ
CrystalH: Thanks
BJ: and I hope this helped you feel more comfortable with helping meet the needs of at risk kids
SimeonC: I can't wait to incorporate the arts into Social Studies
ShaylaM: Thanks for all of the info, BYE!
SimeonC: yes it was great thanks BJ
CristinaG: thank you for your time BJ
CrystalH: bye everyone be safe
TeresaP: good night! good luck everyone

SimeonC: bye have a great night

RosaElenaP: Thank you very much!

DixieC: Thanks for the websites and thoughts on art, Bye.

BJ: you're welcome

CherylDW: bye