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Call for Researchers: Inclusive Literacy Model: The Story Time Show

Brief Description of Organization and Programme

Gwyn McCormack, founder of [Positive Eye Ltd](http://www.positiveeye.co.uk), has developed a ground-breaking approach 'The Marvin Story Time Show, an inclusive literacy model to support diverse learners. Gwyn's background is as a Qualified Teacher of Vision Impairments in the United Kingdom and is internationally known for her techniques in breaking down learning barriers. Gwyn has 40 years + experience of working with children with special educational needs.

What is Marvin's Story Time Show?

Marvin's Story Time Show is an online sparkly fun, joyful story time for the whole family. The show has been designed to be inclusive of children with special educational needs. Teaching and learning practices and resources are incorporated to specifically engage children whose needs are not easily met through the typical story book.

This is a clip of the one-hour show (there is purposefully no music played behind the voice on the live show.)

<https://vimeo.com/808015103>

Why is Marvin's Story Time Show needed?

There are many children around the world for whom the typical story book is not accessible, impacting on their important participation in family story time. They want to be included. Marvin's Story Time Show offers the bridge to story time for the whole family.

The [inclusive literacy model](#) – Marvin's Story Time Show

Children with special educational needs are central to the design of the inclusive model of literacy – Marvin’s Story Time Show. Access to literacy is brought to life beyond the typical story book.

The model is designed to incorporate teaching and learning strategies and accessible opportunities to participate in an online story time by the whole family or class, inclusively.

The core literacy skills threaded through the model are:

- Fine Motor
- Auditory and Language
- Tactile Discrimination
- Concept Development
- Visual Skills (Hierarchy: Visual Awareness, Visual Attention, Fixation, Tracking, Scanning, Visual Discrimination of objects and Images, Identification of print, number, shape – not all children reach this point.)
- Book and Story Skills (this may not necessarily have to be in the shape of a typical book for every child)

I refer to these core literacy skills as Red Arrow Planes that fly with the child through their lives. The planes will never leave the child but the combination of skills the child requires to access literacy will change.

What does Marvin’s Story Time Show comprise?

Marvin’s Story Time Show uses high contrast glittery characters presented against an uncluttered black background to maximise access, develop visual attention, engagement and increase connections. Each show follows the same structure incorporating specific elements to maximise the opportunity to increase the literacy skills: a huge welcome, rainbow wheel spins, time spent saying ‘Hi’ to each child by name, a chat/wave to Marvin, a story told with high energy using glittery homemade characters and finally a craft made live on the show linked to the story.

- Parents report increased engagement, vocalisation, concentration, participation in this and other story times
- Parents report that it’s given them confidence to know the starting point for story time for their child

Here's Jade watching the show for the first time, she struggles to lift her head and as a consequence doesn't do so. Her parents were delighted that she responded by lifting her head and engaging in such a focussed way.

- <https://www.dropbox.com/s/2m2sf3mIn3hia36/Jade%20watching%201.35m.mp4?dl=0>

Here's a second video of Jade captured two years later, she is still watching the show and loves it. When she won't engage in anything else, she will engage in this show

- <https://www.dropbox.com/s/nl88giba43t3ohk/Jade%20Video.mp4?dl=0>

Julia, Jade's mom shares the life changing impact the show is having for her daughter Jade

- https://youtu.be/JL_l8gwPchQ

Asher watching the Story Time Show, she has watched for the last 3 years and is a big fan.

- <https://youtu.be/AWDiJ6KrFol>

Parents reflections

- Mom, Katrina shares how the show ignites the light for parents and care givers to see the joy that happens when you go the extra mile.

Parent Katrina – Reflections about the impact of the Story Time Show

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4qXJz9suXw>

Parent Teresa – Reflections about the impact of the Story Time Show

- <https://youtu.be/tpozGhw0E6c>

Background to the development of the model

Over a 3-year period I have collaborated with 27 Deafblind Projects across the United States to develop the model. I have presented the show to hundreds of children and their families with success. Although I

have worked with the Deafblind Projects across all these States the show works inclusively for both neurotypical children and children with a range of additional needs.

Further Links

Marvin's Website: <https://marvinstorytimeshow.co.uk/product/marvins-story-time/>

Further information about the show:

https://positiveeye.co.uk/marvin_story-time_show/

The Offer

The Story Time Show works equally well for families and special schools. I am looking for a researcher to conduct research into the impact of the Story Time Show.

Research Proposal Ideas

Impact on:

- Literacy skill development and outcomes for children with special educational/complex needs. E.g., How does the model impact on visual skills, auditory and language, engagement, role play, concentration, participation (and in other story or curriculum activities)
- Family participation in story time
- How the model empowers parents to support their own story time for their child

I am open to research suggestions.

School Involvement

- Looking for one or two schools to participate in this research project.
- Positive Eye Ltd would present the online Story Time Show (3 x 1 hour shows) for a special school in return for working with the researcher to collect data required for the research project.
- No charge will be made for the presentation of this show and the associated resources.
- Schools need to be committed to implementing this programme across their setting. The Story Time Show offers extensive learning opportunities and planning to incorporate the story across

class story time and extend the learning that this programme offers is integral to undertaking this proposition.

- The above offer is flexible according to the final research project requirements

To discuss further please contact:

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