



P4C.COM news

WE HAVE A CLUTCH of new stories on p4c.com covering such themes as history and myth, morality and culture, fairness and sharing, luck and consequences. Liz Martinez, author of the *The Everyday Witch*, see <http://tinyurl.com/lmartinez> has joined our team of contributors and written some very short tales suitable for children at key stages 2 and 3. Jason Buckley has continued to supply short and useable stories that could easily be adapted for storytelling sessions.

Sara Stanley has submitted a new resource for early years teachers and children to be used with *Where the Wild Things Are*. It could also be adapted for an exploration of the qualities of leadership. Michelle Whitworth has recently shared a resource with a focus on the concepts of health and nutrition. All these resources are listed in the 'latest content' on the p4c.com homepage.

Change places if ..

By Roger Sutcliffe

Here is a variation on the popular game. The basic guidelines are straightforward. Participants should be seated as close to a circle as possible, with no obstacles (such as books or bags) within the circle. The facilitator normally starts by standing in the middle of the circle and being the first to say, 'Change places if ...' The participants change if the facilitators' choice applies to them. If the activity is repeated, then participants will know the procedure and anyone could start it off.

A more exciting version is that the facilitator (or whoever starts in the middle) moves quickly into a vacant place as soon as participants respond to their instruction. Then, provided that there were no vacant places to start with, one participant will always be left standing (in the middle). That person would then come up with a new instruction of their own, and, in turn, slip into a place as soon as one becomes vacant.

The point of this short article to suggest that participants choose a series of different categories of items. For example you could move from belongings to experiences, achievements, abilities, likes, preferences and opinions. Here are some examples:

Belongings: Change places if you have ... a pet, a bicycle, a book, an older brother.

Experiences: Change places if you have been ... pushed underwater, taken to a safari park, sick on a plane or a ship, dressed up for a wedding.

Achievements: Change places if you have ... climbed to the top of a tree, sung a song on stage, bought something in a foreign country.

Abilities: Change places if you can ... swim, play an instrument, read upside down, balance a plate on your head.

Events and courses

Advance notice

Carol Dweck Conferences. This June, there will be five conferences featuring Carol Dweck, author of *Mindset* and *Self Theories*. Widely regarded as one of the world's leading researchers in the fields of personality, social, and developmental psychology, Professor Dweck will be giving keynotes alongside Guy Claxton, author of *Building Learning Power*; Dr Barry Hymer, author of the G&T pocketbook; and James Nottingham, one of the directors of p4c.com.

- Mon 7th June - York
- Tues 8th June - Solihull
- Weds 9th June - Corby
- Thurs 10th June - London
- Fri 11th June - Norway

The event on the 11th June in Florø, Norway will be preceded by visits to local schools and followed by a choice of sailing amongst the fjords, walking the local mountains or a trip to the nearby Kjenndal glacier. Advice for travel, which is surprisingly affordable, can be sought from Helen Richards, administrator for p4c.com (support@p4c.com)

Further details and online booking at www.carol-dweck.co.uk

Courses run by SAPERE. Further information and more courses at www.sapere.org.uk

- SAPERE Level 1 course in London: 07/05/2010
A non-residential SAPERE Introductory course over 2 days on Friday May 7th and Saturday May 8th 2010. The course fee includes refreshments, lunch, a SAPERE Level 1 Handbook and course certificate.
- SAPERE Level 2 course in Oxford: 14/05/2010
A 4 day, non-residential course split in 2 parts Friday May 14th, Saturday May 15th and Friday June 18th, Saturday June 19th 2010 on 'Developing the Practice of Philosophical Enquiry in Communities'. This course gives those who have attended a Level 1 course further tutoring in the practice and theory of communities of philosophical enquiry.SAPERE



Events and courses

Advance notice

Likings: Change places if you like ... large dogs, liquorice, watching ice skating on television, doing puzzles, visiting museums.

A personal preference: Change places if you prefer ... orange to apple juice, lions to tigers, running to walking, mornings to afternoons, pictures to photos.

A personal opinion: Change places if you think that ... Britain is a good country to live in, school should start and end earlier, life gets better as you grow older, top footballers get paid too much, snakes should not be kept as pets.

P4C in the Nursery

By James Nottingham

Having not done an extended P4C project in a nursery since 2001, I thought it was about time I got going with another one. So, over the last couple of months I have been dropping in to Goosehill nursery in Morpeth every week to work with groups of their 3 year olds. Each session has been filmed, so I plan to put together a video diary of the project later in the year. I will also be following these children into Reception when they start school in September. The themes we have explored so far include:

Week 1: Names. I gave them all name tags then moved the tags around asking for responses (they weren't happy!) I then put a builders hat on one of the boys and asked what his name is now. They all said Bob (as did he). We then focussed on why happy to be called something else when dressing up but not in 'normal' life

Week 2: Happiness. I used a set of photos for us to think about how we can tell if someone is happy or not. We then talked about whether animals can be happy (this is something they brought up)

Week 3: Pets. I tried to get them to distinguish between pets and other animals, but they didn't really get it. So we looked at why inanimate objects such as pens, plates, etc wouldn't be kept as pets but animals (and they thought, cuddly toys) could

Week 4: Belonging. This was the best so far. We thought about what belonging means, and who belongs to whom, or what belongs to what. The nursery staff were particularly fascinated by this.

Week 5: Same and Different. My idea was to encourage the children to recognise that things could be both the same and different from each other all at the same time, so I took in 3 versions of the same picture book. Unfortunately, I chose my resource badly by taking in three Gruffalo books because all they wanted to do was recite the story! So, we compared 3 children instead - looking specifically at their clothes then their limbs.

See the May newsletter for the next instalment! In the meantime, please feel free to contact me on james@p4c.com

Super Seminars. P4C.COM subscribers may be interested in Roger Sutcliffe's new venture in the field of professional and school development, www.superseminars.co.uk, involving leading figures in various fields of curriculum design. These include Mick Waters (President of the Curriculum Foundation), Bill Lucas (Co-Director of the Centre for Real-World Learning at the University of Winchester), David Leat (Professor of Curriculum Innovation at Newcastle University), and Chris Waller (Professional Officer at the Association for Citizenship Teaching) as well as Karin Murris, Joanna Haynes, Will Ord, Barry Hymer and Sue Lyle from the world of P4/wC – not to mention James Nottingham and Steve Williams from p4c.com itself!

There are also outstanding figures from the fields of: SEAL (Deborah Michel); Global Citizenship (Mary Young); Critical Thinking (Roy van den Brink Budgen); A level Philosophy (Michael Lacey); and Mantle of the Expert (Tim Taylor).

The idea of Super Seminars is to give heads, senior managers and curriculum coordinators more opportunity than usual for critical questioning, creative dialogue, and collaborative planning. Each seminar will:

- Use just one leading presenter as a catalyst for taking ideas and practice forward.
- Provide proper time for analysis and evaluation of the ideas presented, and for developing syntheses and synergies in small group workshops.
- Be facilitated by a Dialogue Works specialist in collaborative thinking and learning.
- Be limited to 20 participants, so that everyone can put more into, and get more out of, the day's encounters.
- Take place in a venue chosen for its quality and convenience for rail travel.

Quality dialogue and reflection will be encouraged throughout the day, both in plenary and small groups, but the move in the second half will be towards resolution: the creation of strategies and plans for action. Part of the planning could involve collaboration in a 'support and sustain' teleconference, and/or an online forum, which Dialogue Works would facilitate at no extra cost.

The standard day fee for an individual is £300, reducing to £200 for others on the same booking, BUT P4C.COM SUBSCRIBERS CAN GET A £100 DISCOUNT CODE by simply sending a message to contact@superseminars.co.uk, with 'p4c.com discount' in the subject box.