“Trip, Trap Over the Bridge”: Using Vivian Paley’s Story Acting to Connect Literacy to Pretend Play

Kathy Parham, Executive Director, The Children’s Playhouse, Boone, NC.
Bad Guys Don't Have Birthdays: Fantasy Play at Four
Vivian Gussin Paley

BOYS & GIRLS
Superheroes in the Doll Corner
Vivian Gussin Paley
NEW EDITION
With a Preface by Vivian Gussin Paley & an Afterword by Susan Espar

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This image contains two book covers. On the left, the cover of 'Bad Guys Don't Have Birthdays: Fantasy Play at Four' by Vivian Gussin Paley is shown. On the right, the cover of 'BOYS & GIRLS: Superheroes in the Doll Corner' by Vivian Gussin Paley is shown. The two books are likely related to social and gender studies in childhood development.
You Can't Say You Can't Play

Vivian Gussin Paley

the boy who would be a helicopter
the uses of storytelling in the classroom

Vivian Gussin Paley

foreword by Robert Coles
3/24

- Zelie
- Cameron
- Zack
- Jacob H
- Bryce
- Nevada
- Arizona
- Montana
- Jenna

Sign up sheet for story dictation and yes, they were triplets.
Montana 4/21

It starts out with a rabbit. The rabbit goes home and gives its mom a hug. And then it went & hugged its dad. And then it went back out to look for some food.
Playhouse receives $30,000 NEA grant

BY SCOTT NICHOLSON
Watauga Democrat

The Watauga Arts Council and The Playhouse were among a small number of grant recipients across the country to receive National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) funding for preschool education programs.

“We’re a little bit awed,” said Cherry Johnson, Executive Director of the Watauga County Arts Council at a Friday press conference.

“This is the first year the NEA has extended the Arts Learning category to include preschool children. The fact that our proposal was one of only 16 in the country selected for that age group says a lot about the quality of our artists and the vision we and the Playhouse put into the proposal.”

The Playhouse is a non-profit community organization where children up to age eight can explore arts and activities with their parents and other children. The Playhouse opened in November and its number of visitors will be more than double what the founders expected for the first year.

The Arts Council and The Playhouse receive a matching grant of $30,000 for three programs. The total project will cost $62,000 and the match will be made with volunteer labor and in-kind contributions such as those made by Appalachian State University students. The Playhouse will still need to raise up to $7,000 to keep the cost of programs low and offer scholarships.

Ann Keifert, a co-founder of The Playhouse, said the center had exceeded expectations in its first year. She said the purpose of the center was to let both children and their parents have a shared and playful learning environment.

“It’s an indoor place where families can come and play no matter what the weather,” Keifert said. She added that the “engaging, enriching environment” was important not just for the children, but for adults as well, as they made new friends and shared parenting tips.

Charlotte Smith, a community arts education coordinator for the arts council, said that early childhood arts activities helped children improve their problem-solving skills, and that the programs boost cognitive and creative thinking skills. It also builds self-esteem and self-discipline. “Arts provide a vehicle for ‘creative play’,” Smith said.

Johnson said it was the first time the Watauga County Arts Council had ever

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PLAYHOUSE GRANT

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The grant will be used to fund three programs at the center. Art Safaris are twice-monthly workshops for two- and three-year-olds that give them a chance to work on art projects with their parents. The safaris feature puppets, music, storytelling and art classes led by local artists such as Mary Greene, Joe Shannon and Gail Haley.

Baby Lap times will be offered on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. To help babies get exposure to songs, stories and art. Lap times also included information about community resources. In all, ten local artists are participating in the program.

The Tell Me A Story Arts Exploration course is for four- and five-year-olds, in which children have the opportunity to shape and act out their own stories while also learning about visual arts, music, theater and dance. Writer and teacher Vivian Gussin Paley

will lead the course.

About 225 children and adults use The Playhouse on Tracy Circle in Boone each week. Admission is $5 per day with six-month family memberships available.

The programs begin Sept. 8 and are scheduled to run for a full year.
My Tell Me A Story Book
by
Finley
Four year old children pretending to take dictation.
Dinosaurs don’t ever fight, but the big mean one is king of all the dinosaurs. Max finds a dead dinosaur in the ground. Then ever, ever, the king mean Dinosaur kills all the mean ones. The dinosaurs do a lot of things. Some dinosaurs eat leaves off the trees. They have long necks. Two more. A “Tyrannus” Rex has a mouth like a duck. Then the King Mean Dinosaur comes and eats it. That’s go front teeth. It’s sharp. Some dinosaurs have spikes on their tail to protect their babies. The mean ones come to eat the babies, but the king kills them. --Ryan, More at Four
Ryan dictated his story about dinosaurs to Kathy Parham of the Children’s Playhouse. Then we acted it out in class.
11/7/05

Dinosaurs don’t ever fight, but the big mean one is king of all the dinosaurs. (Ryan is the king dinosaur.) Max finds a dead dinosaur. Anna is the baby dinosaur all curled up.
Chloe is a longneck dinosaur eating the leaves off of a tree (Savannah).
The king mean dinosaur (Ryan) has just killed the mean dinosaurs—Chloe and Jacob (lying down)
I saw Freddy Kruger and Jason. They had knives. --J.T., Head Start

Once there was a Barbie. Then she goed to her homework. Then she goed to the castle. Then she liked her castle because it was so beautiful. Then she went to the library. She liked the library ‘cause it’s full of Rapunzels. Everything was a Rapunzel book, but they were different. She readed the story and there was no evils in it. Then she wroted about a unicorn. Then she turned it back to the library. She thinked everything was different now. She goed to her old school.
--Annika, 4 year old girl in school-based “More at Four” classroom
Once upon a time me and my mommy were shopping. And we bought five Luncheables. And we bought two packs of string cheese. And then we bought candy and then we went to the pet store and bought a bunny. And we bought a baby kitten and we bought a baby bunny. Then we bought a baby puppy. We went home and did scrapbooking and made cards for my cousin and then we went to California. It took a very long time. Then we said “Happy Birthday” to my cousin and we decided to stay for 5 days and then for 10 days. -- Jenna, 4 year old girl in school-based “More at Four” classroom
Batman, Spiderman, and Power Rangers are fighting bad guys. Then they went home to drink hot chocolate. Then they went to bed. The End.

--Eli, 4 year old boy in rural, school-based “More at Four” classroom
It’s about a horse. Once upon a time, there was a horse and a baby and the baby horsey went over the hill and then it went far far away and it swimmmed through the water. Then he smelled the other horses and when he smelled the horses they tried to untie them and the bad guys woke up then the horses stopped and the bad guys tried to get the baby horsies and they ran over the hill to their mommy.

A little girl went out to play. She said, “Mama, please can I go for a walk?” Mama said, “Don’t go very far!” So she didn’t. And on her way she found a horsey. Then she went back to her home and said, “Mama can I keep this baby horsey?” an her mama said, “Yes!” The End.

A little girl went out and she played on her trampoline. She yelled, “Mama!” She said, “Mama, can I go for a walk?” She said, “Yes!” On the way she found a lot of different animals. The End.
the old man

the Shop
Once upon a time in a forest there was a small cottage. The cottage was only the size of 6 pigs stacked on top of each other. Well it could be 7 counting the bells on top. There they had a nice happy healthy family. Everyone was very happy in the family. Here’s their names. Their names are Ed, Mark, April and Edy. Those were the children.

One day Mark asked mother, “When shall we see the world?” “I’ll ask father,” said mother “he’ll probably have a vote.” And his mother was right. They each wrote down their secret ballots and when they drawed it, the only vote not to go was April’s. So they climbed into the wagon. April was so scared, but her brothers and sisters encouraged her.

Moral: For those of you who are shy think about the story and you may win the battle against shyness. The End.

--Nate, age 6, Playhouse children’s museum class.