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Using Digital Stories as a method for developing students' understanding and recording of service users' views

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# Digital Stories



**USING DIGITAL STORIES AS A  
METHOD FOR DEVELOPING  
STUDENTS' UNDERSTANDING  
AND RECORDING OF SERVICE  
USERS' VIEWS.**

# Nothing about us, without us



# Background to teaching session on digital stories



- History of people with learning disabilities.
- Teaching on one page profiles and person centred planning
- Use of digital stories to reflect on the voices of people who use services.

# Out of the Shadows : Shabang



Here is a link to ‘Out of the Shadows’ a clip from the  
Shabang theatre group for Down Syndrome day 2015

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9EbKV5yWMk>

# One Page Profiles



A one page profile has three sections:

- Appreciation (what we like and admire about the person)
- Important To (what is important to the person)
- How to best support the person

( <http://bringingustogther.org.uk/but-projects/one-page-profiles/> )

# Billy



## How I communicate

I walk very fast when I'm upset  
I take turns blowing bubbles with staff  
I know well  
I will sit down for 2-3 minutes when I am calm  
I face the wall to help to help me concentrate

## What I like

White chocolate  
Chips with mayonnaise  
Having a bath  
Blowing bubbles  
Long walks in the countryside  
Playing blow football

## How I like to be supported

Please talk to me in a quiet voice  
Please give me time to do the things you ask me to do  
Please don't make me sit down when I'm upset  
Please let me eat at a table by myself  
Please let me eat and drink facing the wall  
Please let me stay in the bath for 30 minutes  
(Hughes and Roberts 2014)



## **How I communicate**

I blow raspberries when I want to ‘talk’ to someone.

My arms jerk up and down when I’m excited.

I close my eyes when I don’t want to ‘talk’.

I cry out and my body becomes arched out of my seat when I want to come out of my wheelchair

I smack my lips together when I’m hungry or thirsty

I can choose, if shown two items, i.e. cake and banana

I moan and cry when I miss my mum

## **What I like**

My vibrating cushion placed upon my tummy

Listening to One Direction in my bedroom.

Being laid on the floor, on my right side facing into the room so I can see what’s happening.

Pink

Sitting to the table to have my meal

Sweet things, like chocolate cake, custard and jelly.

## **How I like to be supported**

Please make sure my food is ‘soft’ but not liquidised.

Please look at me when you talk to me.

Please don’t use ‘baby’ talk

Please approach me from the right side as this is the side I see best

Please use a plastic spoon to help me eat.

Please use my own cup for drinking

Please waken me gently as I sleep very well

Please put my right arm and leg into my clothes first.

(Hughes and Roberts 2014)

# Person Centred Planning



**'Person centred planning is a way of helping people who want to make some changes in their life. It is an empowering approach to helping people plan their future and organise the supports and services they need. It seeks to mirror the ways in which 'ordinary people' make plans.'**

**People, plans and possibilities. Sanderson et al.**

# Connor Sparrowhawk



**PLEASE USE THIS LINK TO WATCH THE  
JUSTICE FOR LB VIDEO.  
[HTTP://JUSTICEFORLB.ORG/](http://justiceforlb.org/)**

# Case Studies



The case studies from 'No Going Back' highlight some of the experiences of people with learning disabilities who had been 'patients' at Prudhoe Hospital, and used a one page summary to contrast their experiences at Prudhoe, with their life opportunities since leaving the hospital. For many people, these included the opportunity to marry, have children, have their own tenancy or shared accommodation including individualised supports.

<http://www.centreforwelfarereform.org/uploads/attachment/441/no-going-back.pdf>

# Digital Stories



- Powerpoint outlined how to develop a digital story
- Use of images and music sites
- Examples from previous students
- ‘Hands on’ opportunity for students

# Case Studies



- Students asked to discuss in pairs and share ideas
- Feedback to the group about immediate thoughts
- Students then encouraged to seek appropriate images to develop a digital story.
- Links outlined between the process of developing a digital story and Person Centred Planning

# Critical Discussion



- Challenges in terms of balancing technical skills with reflective practice
- Access to relevant software and PCs
- Limited opportunities for group discussion

# Evaluation



- Feedback from students
- Application to practice settings
- Use with service users

# References



- Hughes, J. and Roberts, B. (2014) Observation with disabled children and adults with learning difficulties in: O'Loughlin, S. and O'Loughlin, M. ( 2014) Effective observation in social work practice. London : Sage
- <http://bringingustogether.org.uk/but-projects/one-page-profiles/>
- <http://www.centreforwelfarereform.org/uploads/attachment/441/no-going-back.pdf>
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