

Using the filmmaking process to stimulate children's literacy and teamwork skills

Artis Film is an exciting weekly programme that explores all aspects of filmmaking, devised in collaboration with IntoFilm and First Light. This programme stimulates children's literacy and teamwork skills through film and the performing arts. It leads the children through the exhilarating journey of producing a film, enabling them to gain knowledge of the film industry.

Artis Film begins with watching film clips for inspiration; developing story lines, writing scripts and drawing up storyboards follow. Then comes casting, filming, editing and composing the soundtrack.

RJ Mitchell Primary School in Hornchurch, an established IntoFilm school, engaged Artis to creatively enrich the curriculum of their lower KS2 children with Artis Film.

The school identified a need to encourage their children to take more risks, to develop their literacy, writing and teamwork skills. Artis Film provided a new and inspiring way to support the school's needs and priorities.

Artis Specialist, Victoria Snaith (Blam), has been delivering Artis Film to Years 3 and 4 on a weekly basis since September. Blam said:

"Year 4s Autumn term topics were audio visual and the Romans, so the children physicalised battle scenes and created costumes to bring it to life".

Teamwork is at the heart of Artis Film and developing this skill is key to the success of the programme. The children have learnt to take it in turns to take on roles such as Director, Camera Person, Actor or Sound Technician. They became able to effectively express their ideas, to listen to each other's opinions, and to constructively evaluate their work. They did this while building self-confidence through responding to film and performing. Blam said:

"What the children have really enjoyed early on is watching film and then being able to react to that film, which has been great for their visual literacy. Artis Film has allowed them to access clips and parts of films that they have never seen before, and they found that fascinating. And then when the cameras were introduced, their ideas just came flowing out."

The Artis Film sessions link to the themes the children are doing in the classroom, but in a new context. Deputy Headteacher Kevin Lee said: "This means their experience of learning is very different in these sessions; and it allows them to feel different. It means every child can make a positive contribution and be proud of their achievements."

hoot



The teachers at RJ Mitchell are in no doubt about the effect Artis Film is having on their pupils. Headteacher Barry Read said:

“The introduction of Blam and her work has had a huge impact in the school. The weekly sessions have been well planned and implemented. Over the weeks it has been fantastic to see the confidence of the children grow. Blam has become part of our team and she has linked the work well to the Connected Curriculum that we run at the school. The children do not see the Artis sessions as a single entity but as part of the work that they do. “I am extremely hopeful that we will be able to carry on our partnership with Artis and Blam over the next few years.”

For more information contact Katie Greene (Babble) on 0207 324 9884 or email babble@artiseducation.com