

'Visual Voices'

Using digital photography as a methodology to explore emotional well being and multiple intelligences in the classroom

@joannetoal I @MsToalsClass



Why photography?

- Emphasis on literacy and numeracy implications? Threat to the arts? What about *emotional* literacy?
- Multiple intelligences approach
- Engaging 'target' pupils, giving them a voice
- Offering an alternative to pen and paper
- Building a rapport with students
- Immersion in the arts- positive effect on emotional well being



Multiple Intelligences

Start the project by stimulating conversation about multiple intelligences

Name MS. Tool

Getting To Know You Survey

Gereing to know ton 201.463									
Directions: Fold the paper on the dark vertical line so that the eight column on the right are folded back. Then read each statement below. Rate each statement to 5 according to how well the description fits you (to = Not at All to 5 = Very Trus) Not united the paper and transfer each number over to the outlined block. The back of the state of the state of the state of the state the back of the state of the state of the state of the state possible score in one area is 15. How many ways are you sma Which of the following are true about you?	1 ind	Naturalist	Mathematical-Logical	Verbal-Linguistic	Musical-Rhythmic	Visual-Spatial	Bodily-Kinesthetic	Interpersonal	Intrapersonal
I enjoy singing and I sing well.	0				0				
I love crossword puzzles and other word games.	2			2					
I like spending time by myself.	4								4
Charts, maps, and graphic organizers help me learn.	3					3			$ \rightarrow $
I learn best when I can talk over a new idea.	4							4	
I enjoy art, photography, or doing craft projects.	5					5		-	
I often listen to music in my free time.	4				4		-		
I get along well with different types of people.	5				<u> </u>			5	
I often think about my goals and dreams for the future.	5				-			-	5
I enjoy studying about the earth and nature.	4	4		-	1				-
I enjoy caring for pets and other animals.	4	4							-
I love projects that involve acting or moving.	4						4	1	
Written assignments are usually easy for me.	3			3					
I can learn new math ideas easily.	3		3						
I play a musical instrument (or would like to).	3				3				
I am good at physical activities like sports or dancing.	3						3		
I like to play games involving numbers and logic.	Ī		1				-		
My best way to learn is by doing hands-on activities.	Î		_				1	1	
I love painting, drawing, or designing on the computer.	5					5			
I often help others without being asked.	5					-		5	
I enjoy being outside in all types of weather.	3	3							
I love the challenge of solving a difficult math problem.	2		2						
Having quiet time to think over ideas is important to me.	4						-		4
I read for pleasure every day.	3			3					
Totals	→	11	6	8	7	13	8	14	13
		Nature	Math	Word	Music	Art	Body	People	Self

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Photography workshop

- Get permission from parents of participating pupils
- Group/ pair work: How to use the camera. Keep it simple – on/off, delete, zoom, mode dial, safety, simple editing etc.
- Talk about creativity, interesting angles, light, perspective
- Allow plenty of time to practice and have fun!



Love!





P for Pentagon





Z for Zap!



Ideas for practice! A-Z Challenge (Paired): Children must work in pairs to photograph items in and around the school representing all letters of the alphabet.

- Portrait of a friend
- Themes, seasonal etc Love

Home/school links

- Send cameras home if you can or arrange with parent for use of camera at home.
- Consider how photos will get to you & how you will store them
- Photography homework!
- Enables you to see what pupils value outside of school
- Specifically invite parents to the exhibition

Content of photos – A Sample

 Items relating to deceased relatives featured strongly, highlighted the neglect of the emotions in education, not only to help pupils deal with their own feelings



"Well... what doesn't she do?! She feeds me, clothes me, pays for my school education, she brings me off, she tucks me into bed at night. She does all different kinds of stuff. She brings me to the park, she plays with me." – One participant speaking about a photo of his mother

 "Well, anytime it's actually dark out and all the stars are out, the one that's glowing the most...I always pick that and think it's actually him" – One participant speaking about a photo he took relating to his deceased brother

The Exhibition

- "I feel very smart now....I don't know, just with all my pictures in front of me I feel smart"
- Exhibiting the work is a critical part of the process. The children are motivated to produce something and feel a sense of pride and empowerment in their achievements.



Final thoughts..

• "In schools nowadays there is an increased emphasis" on literacy and numeracy and it is constantly reinforced that these are amongst the few things that matter. In my opinion, what is forgotten in this approach is that not everyone is made to be a mathematician or writer and that there are other options and avenues available in life. This project I feel helped open the minds of my class to at least one other option and has made me think that we should spend more time exploring these types of options for the sake of the children and society in general" -Participating teacher