



Comhlámh's 2008 Diversity through the Arts workshops Participant feedback

Participant comments included:

'Very glad I came and now feel I have more scope and awareness on the topic of diversity and interculturalism to address it better in the classroom'

'The sessions were brilliant and the balance between the work and contents among them was great.'

Learning included:

'The variety of stimulus which can be used e.g. songs, themes for drama, ideas for art, all of which reinforce the whole idea of understanding each others' culture'

'It is more important to find out and appreciate what is similar about us as opposed to what is different. Also to respect and celebrate newcomers culture in the classroom and not to force them to forget it'

'I learnt that you don't need a huge amount of material for a session to make it feel whole, that breaking down the one issue into small parts has a lot of learning'.

Examples of how this training has been implemented so far

Workshops participants have:

'Passed on the Drama Art and Music ideas to my team. I have put two of the songs in staff notation and taught them to my Arts team and they report that they have used them in schools'

'Applied some of the drama element into my own work with early years' groups, encouraging the children to look at fairy tales and engage in role play. I am experimenting more with combining text, drama and visual art.'

'Used Karen's idea of the little folded book with my second class group. The two girls I take in this group are very thoughtful and loved the idea of making their own book. Using the watercolour paper and paints made the whole activity more of an event for them and they couldn't wait to take them home!'

'Listened to music from different cultures, children have responded to it by drawing pictures or making up stories. Have also used some of the ideas from the visual arts to make painted profiles and crests for the children.'

Impact on values, attitudes, and knowledge identified so far:

One participant mentioned an impact on the "understanding of intercultural diversity". She found that "the children learnt to respect each others' culture and they are more friendly now than before." Another said "We had an intercultural day in our school this year and I know that all the children loved it, particularly the EAL learners. One of my quietest students told me that she was so happy that we had her favourite food in school that day, which showed how important it was to her!"