

Case study seventeen: Canada: Learning through the Arts

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Aims

To bring 'teacher artists' into the schools to work with teachers and students in all of the arts.

Project outline

Learning Through the Arts (LTTA) was established in 1995 by the *Royal Conservatory of Music*. It has become a national leader in preschool and education music programmes.

The project combines artists and teachers with the aim of expanding learning opportunities for young people. The project involves an approach to learning through the arts, where the arts are used to access concepts and make meaning. The project involves over 100,000 students, in 240 schools in six Canadian cities.

Research methods

Interview, case study, focus groups and photographs

Results

This project had major impact nationally and involved the cooperation of universities, arts organisations, schools and the community.

Sustained research has indicated that children involved in the project are:

- More likely to read for pleasure
- Spend less time watching TV and or video games
- Perform better on language and mathematics tests

Main Impact

- International media coverage
- Increased funding to the arts
- National perspective (this aspect is of special interest as this is unusual in Canada)
- Involves a large number of children and young people

Main Challenges

Finances, resources, lack of time of artists in schools, assessment and evaluation issues

Initially the project used a very quantitative methodology but now more qualitative approaches have been accepted and used.