"The DigiTales Interactive Training Curriculum from a teacher's perspective"

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I have been a teacher of adult learners for around 10 years and was recently involved in the piloting of the DigiTales project. After piloting the e-learning course created by DigiTales partner, I would like to feedback my experiences, both completing the course and implementing it within my classroom. So here goes…

Firstly, I don't pretend to be some sort of computer or digital 'Wizz kid', infact far from it. Certainly, I can create a small amount of aesthetically – pleasing content to supplement our course books and material. For the most part, I can navigate my way round a SMART board and I'm no stranger to using collaborative platforms and chat tools… BUT that's about the extent of it. Before completing the Digital storytelling modules, I'm embarrassed to admit. I didn't really know what a digital story was!

In total there are 10 modules that make up the e-course. They range from explaining what digital story telling is, how to create them to the benefits of using digital stories with adult learners. I liked the fact that once I'd signed up, I could complete the modules at my own pace and the language was easy to understand and the content easy to follow. Each module was comprised of different subtopics and as I enjoy easy to digest learning, I was a fan from the offset.

Module one kicked things off nicely, (as I may have mentioned before - prior to the course I didn't know what a digital story was!) By the end of the first module, I was far better equipped with that knowledge. I was also eager to learn more because I was already starting to imagine the possibilities this could bring to my learners. Modules 2, 3, 4 & 5 were about the specifics of creating Digital stories – they presented the steps and processes required to make good, meaningful stories, from coming up with ideas to advice on how to write and what audio and imagery to use. These modules contained examples of other digital stories and a range of interactive activities that reinforced the learning from the lectures.

The rest of the modules focused on the delivery of digital storytelling lessons and how best to facilitate the subject. I learned about the process of encouraging learners to engage with one another whilst giving feedback and constructive criticism in a respectful manner. Finally, module 10 looked at Digital Storytelling (DS) as a means of personal healing and how it can be used to benefit people wanting to 'let go' and share their stories.

Once I had completed the modules, I felt completely confident in bringing what I had learned into my classroom. My learners have been able to realise the benefits of DS and have lots of fun whilst doing so. We've been working through some of the techniques from the course each week and the aim is for each student to have created their first DS by the end of next month. My learners have built stronger relationships because of this topic and have gained extra motivation during other areas of study too. All in all, I'm one happy person to have benefited by this course!