

*In this Bite you improvise a story developed (to a greater or lesser extent, according to your experience and confidence) based on the children's ideas. Weave into the story an aspect of the global issue you want to tackle.*

**Ingredients:**

- Carefully chosen artefacts to help tell the story. This works particularly well with one of the GLADE musical instrument collections (there are a number to choose from) as the children can participate by using the instruments to represent animals etc.
- A maximum of 12 children, or 8 if you have parents/carers there too, who should be encouraged to join in.
- Space to sit in a circle. On the floor on cushions is good; better still in a large yurt or bell tent, to give a sense of intimacy.

**Method:**

time: promise 20 mins max and stick to it.

**Age range:** 3 to young teenage – latter should see themselves as helpers – cooler than participating!

- **Preparation:** you need a basic idea for your story, to make sure it can incorporate your global issue (probably as a sort of parable). Decide in advance how you will use the children's ideas and activities. The less confident you are the less you should leave to improvisation. For example you could use African untuned instruments to represent animal noises; or they could use everyday artefacts to mime cooking, cleaning, etc and act out your story. But make sure *every* child will be reasonably involved, with adult help where necessary. Make sure you can supply a wide and intriguing selection of artefacts or instruments for the children to choose from.
- Start by letting the children choose and try out the artefact or instrument they want to use, and practise its use.
- Let each child individually demonstrate what he/she has chosen.
- Practise letting them respond to a cue in the story (“the dog barked ...” “she swept the floor” etc)
- Tell the story (try to include a grand finale which uses all the children at once.)
- If the mood is right, debrief the significance of the story with the children.



**Global issues raised:** this will depend on your story!

**Watchpoint:** You have to move things on quickly, and chivvy the children to react to cues.

**Where to use this global bite:** Holiday schemes, fêtes, fairs

**Variations on the theme:** For a slightly longer activity include dressing up. If you have amused the children in the adults' absence, turn it into a little show for the adults, and make sure you debrief the global issue to them too.