

Creative Learning **Having fun with story**

This resource follows the creative journey of the artists involved in producing the multi-sensory version of Dugie the Dinosaur.

We hope you enjoy their journey and are inspired to undertake your own journey with the book.

Stories

When we access stories we access the world of the imagination, of communication and connection. Stories help us make sense of the world too. Stories can support learning and development, emotional and mental well-being and much more. Stories are fun and can be delivered in many ways. Music, art, drama, film, poetry, all help people access stories. There is no one way to tell a story. The process of art and creativity offers an amazing insight into accessing stories and literature. Art is all around us, in nature, in the everyday, we live and breathe art. The process of creating art is a personal journey of discovery. It is a process through which we learn so much about ourselves, others and our environment. It is also a journey that provides people with profound and multiple learning disabilities opportunities to teach others. We would like to take you on a journey through the process undertaken to support people with profound and multiple learning disabilities to enjoy Dugie the Dinosaur. We hope you will enjoy creating items that will allow you to access the story in the way that is best for you. In this resource we refer to the story makers, creators and tellers as artists.

The Multi-sensory version of Dugie the Dinosaur, by the Arts End of Somewhere



The Arts End of Somewhere

The multi-sensory version of the book was created by The Arts End of Somewhere. The Arts End of Somewhere are a collaborative group of people brought together by their love of storytelling, art and drama. They formed in 2019 and worked alongside PAMIS (promoting a more inclusive society) in developing skills in multi-sensory storytelling to support people with profound and multiple learning disabilities. As individuals the group have all faced their own barriers in life and are now using their personal experiences to help support others in their communities. They are skilled storytellers and have adapted this story to help people with profound and multiple learning disabilities to access and enjoy the book as much as anyone else.

What the process involved

Research into dinosaurs was undertaken by each group member. Each member of the group chose a dinosaur to research and then they shared their research findings with the everyone.





What Zoe did

"My dinosaur was the Spinosaurus. I googled lots of information and read different paragraphs, I picked bits out and put them into sentences. During workshops I really enjoyed playing the Dinosaur Top Trumps game that we made with all of our dinosaurs. I also really enjoyed the art side of things, we made a watercolour background to stick dinosaur pictures to."

Creating the multi-sensory story

The group are skilled at knowing how to break a story down to make it accessible, and considering how best this could be done without losing the essence of the story. Consideration is given to the sense of touch, smell, sight, and sound in this story. For this they had to think about what would create a memorable performance for the audience but could be equally enjoyed by those accessing the event from home. The group worked together to create items specifically for this event but at home you could make items that are tailored to the person accessing the story. Creating the sensory items for the story also enhances the understanding of the story as well as enjoying a meaningful experience together. There is something special about the creative process and the journey of being involved in the making of items to accompany a story. The creative process enhances not only the connection with the story but also connection with each other as you create together. Creating the items to help tell the story also provides purposeful and meaningful activities that are relevant to each person accessing the story. For this event the Arts End of Somewhere created items for a festival performance of the story, while at the same time being mindful of their audience. A booklet accompanying this resource provides some ideas to help you engage with and enjoy your own artistic journey with the book.



Jade

Jade joined the Arts End of Somewhere in November 2021, and we were able to bring her on board as part of a new group of Multi-Sensory Storytelling Apprentices at the start of 2022. She has since been working with our established group of apprentices.

Jade has a flare for writing and telling stories, and has blossomed since beginning work with Multi Sensory stories. We asked her a few questions about her experience with us so far, and here's what she had to say!

Q: "What do you enjoy most about Multi Sensory Storytelling?"

A: "Using the Multi Sensory stimuli makes me feel content and at ease."

Q: "What have you learned with us so far?"

A: "That people can experience stories in their own different ways, and that I fit in well with the group!"

Q: "Do you have a favourite part of the Dugie the Dinosaur story?" A: "When Dugie snuggles up to his family at the end."

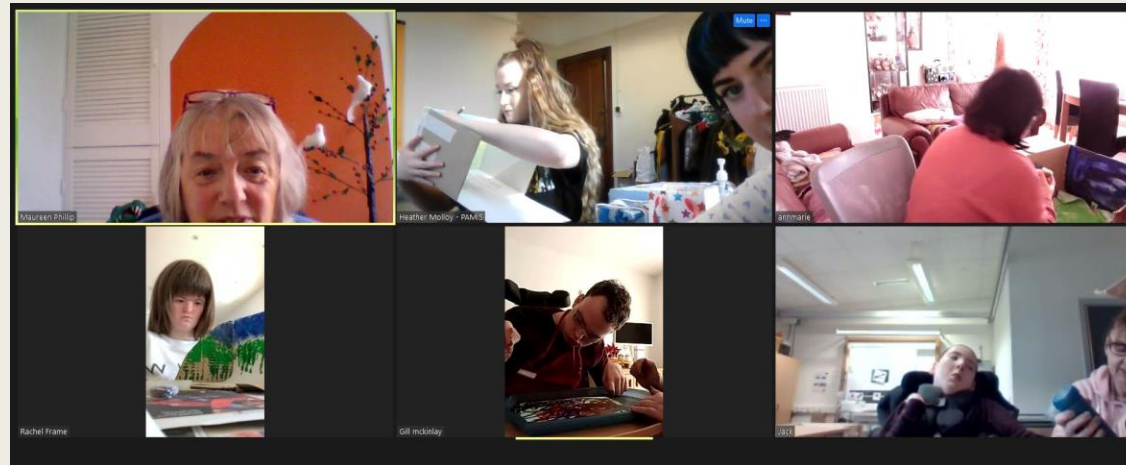
Q: "Are you excited to perform at Edinburgh International Book Festival?"

A: "Yeah! Sometimes I can be such a drama queen."

The PAMIS online Art for Well-being Group.

The PAMIS art for Well-being group are a group of artists who came together online during COVID and worked with art therapist Ashlynn Wardle during this time. The group have worked with authors Alexandra Strick and Steve Antony to develop their own version of their book You Can, at an inclusive event at the Edinburgh International Book Festival in 2021, helping to demonstrate story through art. The group continued to meet online and have enjoyed working on artwork that demonstrates how people with profound and multiple learning disabilities can be involved in the creative process to help them access stories. This section of the resource demonstrates how learning and development through the creative process is different for everyone, and the artists accessed the story through their own unique creativity according to their own interests and preferences.

How they did it?



Like the Arts End of Somewhere, initial research into dinosaurs was undertaken by the group with the help of their families and supporters. Then the group were presented with the idea of creating a dinosaur world in a box. The boxes were then carefully crafted by each person in the group at home, with items that were relevant to each individual artist. Through creating their own diorama's each artist has accessed the story in their own way. The creative learning journey they undertook was very individual and relevant to each and every artist.

Artist Rachel Frame



How Rachel created her Diorama

Rachel's Diorama

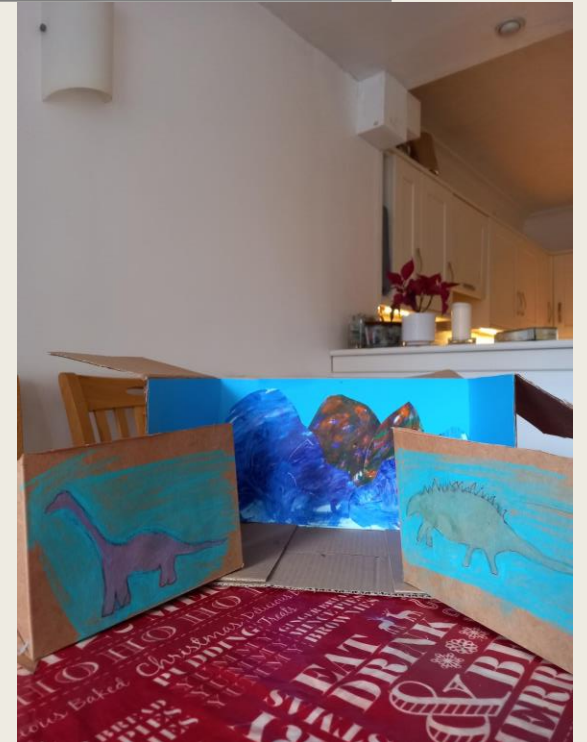
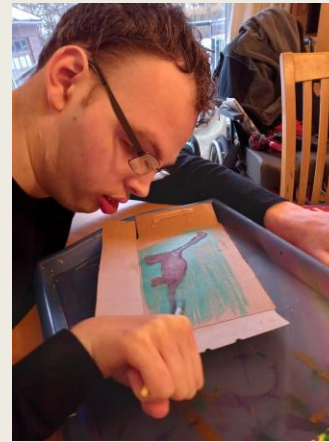
Rachel and her supporter Carole undertook some research on dinosaurs then Rachel set to work creating her dinosaur world.

She used plaster of paris to create her own dinosaur. This material was chosen because Rachel enjoyed squeezing the wet material with her hand. With help she moulded her dinosaur before finishing it with paint.

She collected the material for her box while out walking. She collected leaves, sticks, moss etc. Rachel made choices of the items she wanted to use and liked the texture of the moss and used it on polystyrene balls, sticking it with her hands.

This dinosaur world was created by Rachel Frame over a number of weeks and she enjoyed using a wide range of media.

Artist Neil McInlay



How Neil Created his Diorama

His mum wrote: “We both really enjoyed the dinosaur project, it was great to have all the ideas and background information that was shared. We are both enjoying trying out dinosaur related art and reading. For the diorama, we used bright blue card paper and cut it to fit the top half of the back and sides of the box for sky. Neil is a dab hand with a glue stick so helped glue the pieces and press them on the box. He loves making swirls and circle patterns with paint or crayon. He used chunky paint sticks to cover 2 pieces of paper in swirls of bright colours, one blue and purple and one orange and green. He used a wet paintbrush to spread the colours over the paper then we cut out mountain shapes to stick on the back of the box. Then I traced 2 dinosaur shapes onto cardboard from a cereal packet, and we both coloured round the shapes in wax crayon. Neil then painted the dinosaurs, keeping the paint in the dinosaur shape. Trees and lagoon effect next! For the lagoon in the diorama we just used foil, a small apple tart case and Neil painted it blue with a paint stick and added a few stones and water. We used song too to engage Neil in the story. **The song** he likes is a version of an old song about 2 elephants going out to play, on a spiders web. I changed it to dinosaurs in a lagoon! Fiona Sharp played it one week for us at the music group as several of the art group members also attend that”.

Artist Helen Johnstone



How Helen created her Diorama

Helen chose to make her dinosaur box, using some crepe paper as grass. She used ceramic dinosaurs & painted them. She painted one green & light green & the other one green & brown.

Helen gathered material from outdoors to represent some small trees & foliage from outside to represent the environment.

She chose to make her dinosaur mask green & coloured the dinosaur in the picture green to match her box.

Artist Jack McBride



How Jack created his Diorama at school.

We enjoyed working together in the art sessions, it was a good social session and Jack really enjoyed interacting with the other people taking part.

Each week Jack was able to make a choice. It took quite a few sessions to make the dinosaur house. We used a cardboard box that mum had sent in and we had to cut down an end so we could place things in the box. Jack helped to cut box and we did it together. Jack made a choice of what colour he wanted to paint the box, he chose brown. We talked about how we were going to make the dinosaurs, he chose to make them using playdough and he chose red and yellow dinosaurs.

We made trees and flowers for the box and Jack was given a choice of coloured pipe cleaners and tissue paper to make them. Jack chose green and yellow and red for these. We crushed up the tissue paper and used glue to stick them onto the pipe cleaners and we stuck the pipe cleaners on to the base of the box.

We use playdough to make stones and rocks, Jack again chose red and yellow for these. We also chose blue for some water in the box, Jack chose where it was to go, he chose the side and painted a waterfall. He chose some green paint to make some grass for the box.

Jack enjoyed the show and tell at the end of each session, he liked showing off his hard work and was interested in seeing everyone else's.

Alison Rogers and Jack McBride

What Jack's mum said

Jack and I (Mum) really enjoyed the dinosaur project. We both worked on our diorama's (sometimes it was competitive!). Jack joined the group from school and worked from the art room. He did some background research and went to the library to find out about dinosaurs. He worked hard online with his PSA. I often couldn't see him because his head was inside the box.

For the diorama, he used tissue paper and made dinosaurs with playdough. Jack loved getting his brush into the box. He has also made a rapture costume! We seem to have seen dinosaurs everywhere since doing the project! He made extra props at other art groups including the collage crocodile picture at Pamis friendship group. Jack loves art and has taken his work seriously. He has now joined an art group.

The Creative Process.

We are sharing this record of the creative process that the young people undertook to produce a wonderful vibrant multi-sensory experience of this story book. Each person undertook their own learning journey. They unearthed knowledge of dinosaurs to gain an understanding of the subject that then helped them to authentically and naturally enter the mythological landscape of Dugie the Dinosaur to create a multi-sensory experience that could be enjoyed by everyone. Creating this resource has been a purposeful and meaningful exploration for everyone and demonstrates that story can be accessed and enjoyed in many ways. It can be enjoyed on a personal level, through individual engagement with the story or enjoyed as a performance with friends, demonstrating the versatility that is the creative art of storytelling. Thank you to every artist that created this wonderful experience and took us on the journey with Dinosaurs. Thank you to Anne and Steve Brussate for writing a book that offered the opportunity to enter the world of dinosaurs in such an authentic way and to Shalla Gray for the inspiring illustrations and ongoing support you gave to the artists who created this multi-sensory version of Dugie the Dinosaur.

Thank you for the journey

Thank you to Shared Care Scotland for supporting the journey and to the Edinburgh International Book Festival and the authors for being on this journey of inclusion.

The logo for the Short breaks fund. The word "Short" is in a blue, sans-serif font. The letter "o" is replaced by a grey circle containing two vertical bars, resembling a pause button. Below "Short" is the word "breaks fund" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font.

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breaks fund