

Storycatching

What stories do you remember at Christmas? How about the tale of the cat that broke the Christmas lights? That one about the Uncle James and the plastic cherub? Or the saga of the sprinkler and 'the sheep that could'?

Whether your family is gathered for Christmas dinner or you're on the road with the kids in the backseat, stories are marvellous for passing the time, sharing memories and bringing people together. Innovative Resources' *Storycatching* cards are perfect prompts for unlocking those tales you'd half forgotten—or creating entirely new adventures!

Storycatching covers a wide range of subject matter and emotional territory. It is both simple and versatile, and does not require any special training. Teachers love it and families do too!

Christmas card ideas

It's that time of the year when we send letters, emails and cards to people who matter, but whom we rarely see. Stuck for news or anecdotes to share? Turbocharge your correspondence by taking inspiration from...

- A card that represents an experience you both shared
- A picture that brings to mind an event from the past year you'd like to share
- A card that sums up your journey during the past year
- An image that reminds you of the person's strengths
- A card that represents your plans for the coming year.

Musical storytelling

Make the post-lunch hours fly with a game or two at the table. Take a selection of cards from the *Storycatching* deck and ask someone to take charge of playing music. Now, let the music rip and pass the deck of cards around the table. When the music stops, the person holding the deck takes the bottom card and has a few moments to share a tall tale or memory.

You could make the game more elaborate by including the 'Christmas' and 'An unforgettable gift' cards. When the music stops and these cards are revealed, the person holding them might receive an extra present!

Memory Game

Lay out all the *Storycatching* cards on the floor or table. Have everyone in the group scan them for a minute. Now turn all the cards face down. Ask everyone to write on a sheet of paper as many of the objects from the cards as they can remember. How many cards does each person remember? How many cards can be remembered between you all?

Teachers

Enliven those final classroom hours at the year's end by using *Storycatching* for creative games and activities. Try the **Listening Game**: working in pairs, each student has two minutes to tell their story while their partner simply listens without interruption or comment. Now, ask the students who listened to re-tell the stories to the class. How good were they at listening?!



STORYCATCHING

80 full-colour, laminated cards, 80mm x 110mm
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