My Story, Your Story, Our Story
Using an Intentional Story Sharing Programme to Strengthen Relational Skills in Grade 6 Boys
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Introduction
A group of 20 Grade 6 boys participated in a seven-week “My Story, Your Story, Our Story” programme with their Grade 2 buddy. Through story-related activities and based on pedagogy underpinned by a framework for best practice in boys’ education, this action research project sought to establish whether an intentional story sharing programme would strengthen relational skills in Grade 6 boys. Activities that involved physical interaction as well as those with a digital element were chosen as they best suit boys’ education.

The Research Question
How does an intentional story sharing programme strengthen relational skills in Grade 6 boys?

Research Context & Participants
The participants in this action research project were 20, 11-12 year old Grade 6 boys from St Peter’s Boys Prep. St Peter’s Boys Prep is an Anglican private preparatory boys school in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Data Collection & Analysis
- Surveys
- Observations
- Photographs & Videos
- Flipgrid Reflections
- Field Notes
- Interviews

The Research Action
The Grade 6 boys shared their “My Story” with their Grade 2 buddy. They then listened to their buddy’s “Your Story”. After participating in story sharing activities with their Grade 2 buddy, the Grade 6 boys then produced a combined “Our Story” video.

Historical Story
House shirt & Welcome card
Presentation on history of house
War cry
Flipgrid reflection

Autobiographical Story
Grade 6 My Story Book
Grade 2 Your Story Book
Flipgrid reflection

Growing Our Story
Planted succulents

Story of Our Nicknames
Nicknames
Flipgrid explanation

Secret Handshakes
GoNoodle Secret Handshakes Videos
Choreographed own secret handshakes
Flipgrid video

Hot Lunch Experience
Shared a meal

Our Story
IMovie

Key Findings & Discussion
The Grade 6 boys identified three distinct themes which they felt are needed to strengthen relational skills:

- Acknowledgement knowing each other’s name being friendly smiling positive deposits
- Trust spending time being caring being supportive
- Connection finding interests conversation

“When we did the tour, the last activity, he didn’t stutter and he listened to me. He trusted me.”

Conclusions
The sharing of stories was key in providing a platform for the boys to strengthen relational skills and form strong connections. Our programme provided a safe environment for boys to form connections and develop trust. This story sharing programme provided a positive experience for the boys, which enabled them to grow as individuals, reflect on their development in strengthening relationships and be good role models to the Grade 2 boys.

Readings
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