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## **KAMISHIBAI, an educational experience in the National School “San Juan de la Cadena”, Pamplona, Navarra, Spain.**

### **KAMISHIBAI WORKSHOP**

*The main characteristic in our work is that we take advantage of Kamishibai to achieve teaching and didactical goals: we call it “TALLER DE KAMISHIBAI”. As teachers we have found, and we still finding, didactical uses for the Kamishibai technique in our classrooms.*

It was the beginning of 2002 when Reiko Furuno, mother of 2 students in our School, made us know about Kamishibai. Everybody was delighted: from children to elderly. Since then we still use it.

**In our School we use Kamishibai in two different ways, with two different aims:**

- 1) As a Storytelling technique.

That was our starting point and all of us we know how it works: the Butai, the performance, children fall under the spell of Kamishibai as a group, the atmosphere helps to share feelings, “kyokan”.

- 2) Our “**TALLER DE KAMISHIBAI**” (**Kamishibai Workshop**).

From the very beginning we found out that **Kamishibai is a powerful tool to achieve educational and didactical goals, related with the latest European Directives. Therefore we set up this Workshop** to develop those characteristics.

**Main characteristics of “TALLER DE KAMISHIBAI”:**

- Our students learn how to perform a Kamishibai and how to produce their own Kamishibai. Some based in their own original script, some others in stories or tales that are suitable to become a Kamishibai.
- Attendants **commit** to produce a Kamishibai for the School Library and to perform it for different audiences.
- **Educational nature of the workshop.** The priority is the creative process, that’s the aim of our Workshop and what our students must learn. The quality of the resulting Kamishibai is a secondary target, ensuring a minimum quality for the public performance of it. This creative process is made in 2-3 persons working teams.
- In the workshop we develop all **communication skills**: listening, public speech, reading writing of appropriated scripts, read into drawings and feeling expression through drawings.
- **The assessment of those skills** is done through their creations and Kamishibai performances.

- It's important to highlight other characteristics as: creativity, team work, community involvement, responsibility and satisfaction with the well done job.
- At the same time the student's family becomes involved with the School life because they are responsible of some organization issues, accompanying children to their performances, taking photos there...
- Finally, our Workshop and our School has become a reference in our environment: our collaboration has been asked from Public Libraries, Teachers Centers, Schools and Educational Campaigns.

### **“TALLER DE KAMISHIBAI” evolution**

We started our workshop during the scholar year 2002-2003, with Carmen Aldama, teacher in the school, as responsible person and the support of *Reiko Furuno*. When Reiko went back to Japan another teacher, Carmen Varea came to support the activity. The workshop is offered for 10 years old students.

Some figures summarize our work:

- A total of 185 children, in 11 groups, have taken part in the Workshop.
- 68 kamishibais have been produced.

Our students periodically perform Kamishibais for the rest of students, in open public performances, School events. Related with collaboration projects with other institutions, from time to time the performances take place out of our School, for example:

- In Public Libraries.
- Sharing Kamishibais with other schools.
- Official events as the visit of a Yamaguchi (Japan) to Pamplona.

**In our beginning we faced difficulties to know about the theory of kamishibai** and to get the proper materials. But soon, Reiko got in contact with IKAJA and they have support us through Etsuko Nozaka. They still support us solving our doubts, advising and teaching us. In 2006 we were honored with their visit.

**Thanks to IKAJA, and first of all to Etsuko, we were able to advance so much in this Project.**

Donna Tamaki also helped us to understand how to properly arrange Kamishibai texts with his English versions of “Taberareta Yamanba”, “Umini Shizunda oni”.

### **Acceptance and divulgation of “TALLER DE KAMISHIBAI”**

In 2004, the Pamplona's Teachers Centre was informed about our workshop and soon after they asked for a presentation explaining what Kamishibai is and about they didactical uses that took place in March 2005.

From then we had many requests from different places within Spain and some others Spanish-spoken countries.

**Some milestones in this journey are:**

- 2006 First award to Innovation in Communication Skills by the Regional Educational Department of Navarra.
- In 2007 the same Department published 4 of our Kamishibais to distribute them in all Navarra's schools.
- During the scholar year 2008-2009, Carmen Aldama got an especial studying license to deepen in the knowledge of Kamishibai and its didactical uses through the workshop activities. Those experiences will be published to help teachers in their use of Kamishibai.
- The educational Website "La cabaña del bosque" has included a Kamishibai section.
- Several articles have been published as related in the references list.
- Design of a Blog in the official server of the Education Department. <http://irati.pnte.cfnavarra.es/kamishibai/>, to better spread the use of Kamishibai.
- Coverage of our activities in "Taller del Kamishibai" by the Japanese TV Channel NHK, in September 2010, for their program "Agora"
- We have been invited to present our experience in several Congresses, all around Spain.
- We are developing workshops "Talleres de Kamishibai" in different educational levels and also for Elder people, using Cultural Centers and Teacher's Centers.

### **Teaching activities for Adults related with KAMISHIBAI.**

Mainly for teachers but also for librarians and people involved in storytelling

*General objectives:*

- Know the Kamishibai technique.
- **Discover, developed and use Kamishibai as a didactical tool, mainly with the use of Kamishibai Workshops.**

*Those activities take place in* Official Teachers Centers, Cultural Centers and Libraries around Spain.

**We can classify those events in the following categories:**

- *Kamishibai presentation meetings:*

To introduce Kamishibai and give some keys about its use a didactical tool. More than 400 meetings have been carried out around Spain with more than 1.500 attendants.

- *Courses:*

Here we deepen in the experiences of our workshop "Taller de Kamishibai" to help teachers in their use of Kamishibai with their students. Attendants must develop Kamishibai activities in their classrooms.

These courses can be:

- Long-term, between 30 to 40 hours and around 25 people in every of the 10 courses carried out.
- Short-term, around 7 hours and 30 people in every of the 6 courses carried out.

- *Permanent working group:*

Made up of teachers that already know Kamishibai and having experience in its use. They are really motivated for finding out new characteristics and for explain its use in courses.

- *“On line” course*

We set up a 30 hours course, for teachers, about Kamishibai and “Taller de Kamishibai”, ordered by The Educational Department of Castilla-Leon an Spanish region. In 2011 they got 210 attendants and 250 teachers are attending in the current year, 2011. It’s organized with a controller for every 30-35 attendants.

- Consultant service for teachers, Schools, storytellers and so on. We got requests from as distant places as the Japan House in Lima, Peru.

## **KAMISHIBAIS already produced**

Once we started to be known and our Kamishibai performance were taking attention during several events, some Official Bodies asked for our support in some educational programs.

First we required support from proffesionals in different fields and then we hire profesional ilustrators for kids literature. The final result was:

- Two different Kamishibais for Kids Obesity Prevention, promoted by the Youth and Social Wellfare Department. We had to fit our main message and characters with other materials in this campain.
- The archeological site and museum “Las Eretas” de Berbinzana asked for a Kamishibai to present the museum to students. Its objective is to attract the attention and teach the students about the main points during the visit. We got the support of archeologists and a profesional ilustrator.
- We produced a Kamishibai to explain a key ítem in the Navarra’s History, The Navas de Tolosa Battle, in year 1212. The Navarra's Government is celebrating 8 centuries since the battle took place and the Educational Department wanted to explain to all students the importance of that event and its repercussion. A profesional ilustrator and a historian supported us.

Also for the Educational Department, but enterely made by a group of students, we prepared in 2011 a Kamishibai to congratulate Christmas to Navarra’s society. It was performed by a girl and a boy.

## **“Amigos del Kamishibai” Association**

In 2005, a group of teachers and parents, we stablished this association with the main objetives of:

- Promote and spread Kamishibai.
- Help to interchange and buy material.
- Deepen our knowledge about Kamishibai and its educational applications.

Since February 2006 we are federated with IKAJA.

Settle up in Navarra, in 2012 we have spread it to all Spain.

### **Ongoing projects:**

In collaboration with the Navarra's Educational Department we are working in:

- Kamishibai Experiences Journeys, taking place in May 2012, 9th and 10th.
- An educational film to show teachers how to make a Kamishibai and how to properly perform it later on. With the support of the Spanish Ministry of Education and Culture.
- A course for teachers in Navarra, about the Kamishibai Workshop and its educational importance.