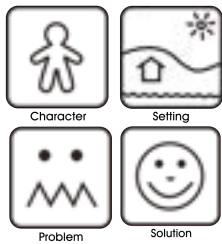


Tales Toolkit Research Trial



ies
institute for
employment
studies

Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON



High impact and low planning, [Tales Toolkit](#) gives children a means of exploring, creating and telling the stories that are important to them. Tales Toolkit provides interactive, child-led resources using easy to remember symbols representing story structure.

« [WATCH AN INTRODUCTORY VIDEO](#) »

Through our resources, children tell their own stories. Stories about the things that interest them, stories that use props and materials from their world. Keeping materials open-ended encourages imaginative play. In Tales Toolkit, anything can be part of a story, from a wooden spoon to a favourite toy making links with hobbies, cultures, and the natural world.

These resources are provided with online training to empower early years practitioners and on-going support to ensure progress across many areas of learning. We've worked with top experts to develop the training and hold an ethos of play, communication and developing quality interactions at the heart of our toolkit.

When practitioners deliver Tales Toolkit in their settings, they guide children through the process of creating their own story. Over time, staff support children to create stories more independently and in later stages of the programme children are supported to write, draw and make marks to represent their story. These activities are designed to support children to develop their language and communication skills, creative thinking, and problem solving, as well as laying the foundations for the development of writing skills.

Tales Toolkit has won numerous awards including Teach First Innovation award, Nursery World Awards and ERA awards and gained funding and support from companies such as The Lego Foundation.

Great Opportunity

As part of the Department for Education's Early Years Recovery Programme, Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs and the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) are working together to fund Early Years settings' access to evidence-informed programmes.

State-maintained nurseries and nursery classes and private, voluntary and independent settings are being invited to receive funded professional development delivered by Tales Toolkit Limited and Goldsmiths University of London (the delivery team).



The SPH is looking for 10 early years settings in South Gloucestershire to participate in this programme. Looking to start in Summer 2024



ies
institute for
employment
studies

Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON



Education
Endowment
Foundation

How will your setting benefit?

Free professional development and resources

Settings will have access to Tales Toolkit for FREE during the project. The package usually costs £960 including VAT. You will have access to the online training and resources for a year and can keep the kit at the end of the project. Plus hubs are funding extra kit for settings.

We are committed to keeping this as planning-light and child-led as possible. The last thing we want is to add to your workload.

Positive outcomes for the children in your setting!

Goldsmiths University of London undertook a [research study](#) in 2018 that suggested Tales Toolkit has a significant impact on children's development in these key areas:

- Communication and language skills
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Confidence
- Creativity
- Literacy
- Problem solving skills

In this study Tales Toolkit closed the gender 'literacy gap' by 62%. By contrast, the control group not using Tales Toolkit, saw the gender literacy gap widen by 22%.



What does the package include?

- 5 x 50 min online training films. Training is designed to run over 3-4 months with activities between sessions embedding best practice. You have access to this package for a year to rewatch as many times as you like.
- Physical resources to use in the delivery of Tales Toolkit sessions (big bags; small kit; apron; hanger; shuffle book; big book).
- Additional support through an online platform: research articles linked to each session; a social media group for participants; an archive of webinars with early years experts; and downloadable resources.



ies
institute for
employment
studies

Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON



Education
Endowment
Foundation

Some of the other benefits

- Whole teams train together.
- Can be used as a tool to discuss big problems with children and process their worries.
- Stories are engaging, playful, led by the children and can be created indoors and outdoors, together, independently during play, right across the provision.
- Can be used with all children, working at their level, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities or English as an Additional Language.
- Develops children's passion and desire to write.
- Little or no planning for practitioners!



What we need from your setting

- Identification of a lead practitioner who will be the main contact for the project. They will be asked to organise the group training sessions, where staff watch the training together, and plan for delivery in their setting.
- Staff need to engage with all 5 training sessions as a group to make best use of the interactive elements. We ask that settings commit to this being a whole team approach where all / the majority of staff are involved in the training. We appreciate this may not always be possible so ask that staff at least watch the sessions in small groups to ensure the interactive elements are fully utilised. In these circumstances the lead practitioner will need to check all relevant staff have completed the training.
- Tasks between sessions need to be completed. These aren't work heavy and should be happening automatically as a result of the training sessions. Settings should deliver at least one Tales Toolkit story a week for all children involved (can be whole class, small group, individual) and resources embedded across the provision for children to access.



**Complete this
Expression of Interest Form
Deadline: 30th April**

**Email: sph@beyth.co.uk
Website: www.beyth.co.uk/sph**

