

Tales Toolkit

Supporting Best Start in Life in a Playful, Powerful Way

Helping children speak, imagine, regulate, and thrive.

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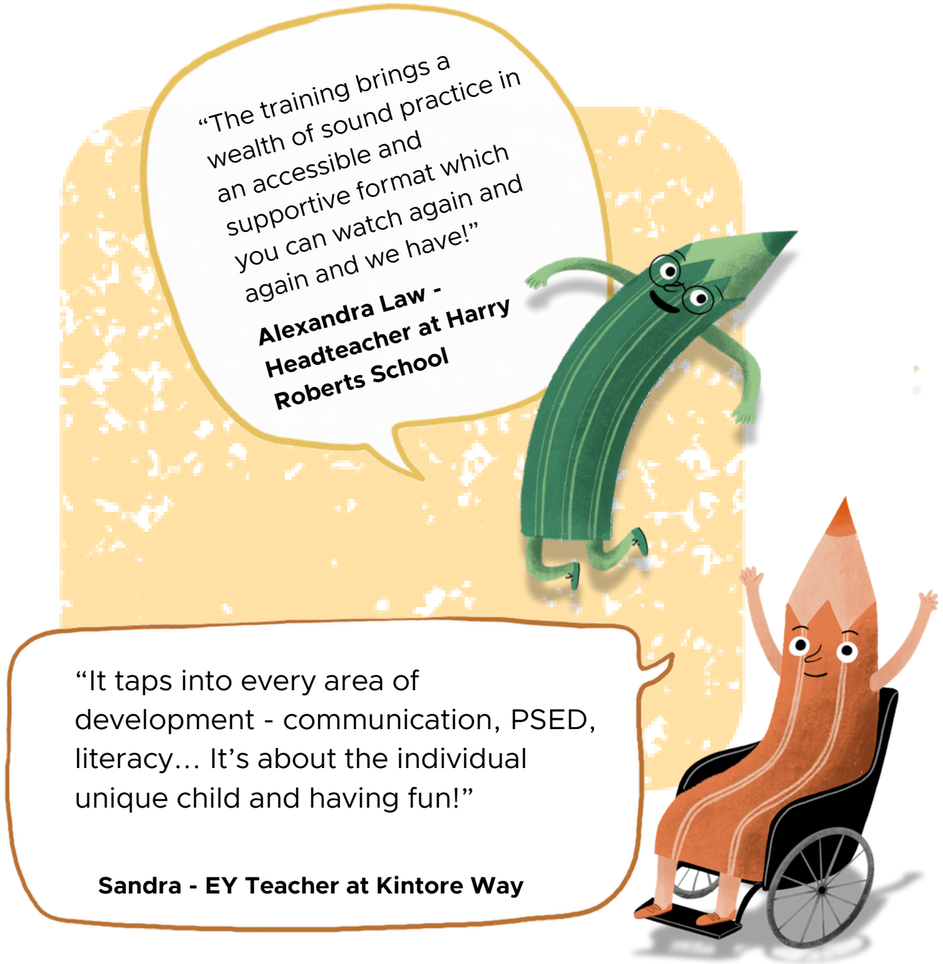
Delivering the best start in life

Every child deserves a strong start where communication, confidence and emotional security are built through joyful interactions.
Tales Toolkit is a really great fit with the Best Start in Life policy. We impact all the key stuff you need to address while strengthening what matters: play, relationships, and strong early years foundations.

Tales Toolkit supports

- Communication, language & early literacy
- Improved GLD
- Emotional regulation, social emotional skills & school readiness
- Improved quality of adult-child interactions in settings
- space for play

All through the power of storytelling



The current dilemma

Many improvement plans focus on:

- Phonics
- Formal teaching
- Narrow literacy interventions
- Adult-led learning
- Interventions in a back room away from play

But child development needs:

- Language rich interaction
- Play
- Emotional co-regulation
- Storytelling
- Emotional development

All the above highlighted in Best start in Life



THIS IS WHERE WE COME IN . . .



Tales Toolkit
everyone has a story

Why Tales Toolkit?

A simple way to turn policy into daily practise

Tales Toolkit:

- Builds language through storytelling and play
- Improves quality adult-child interactions
- Strengthens regulation, communication, confidence
- Works for all children (SEND, EAL, EYPP)
- Low to no planning and no additional staffing

Impact that supports teachers' ethos of play and instincts for what's right for children.





A resource that enables children to articulate the stories that matter to them in a way that can be shared and understood is definitely worth having.

Tales Toolkit *is* such a resource, giving children a simple but highly effective means of exploring, creating and telling the stories that are important to them.

Alistair Bryce Clegg



What is Tales Toolkit?

Helping children tell the stories that matter to them

Tales Toolkit is a complete package of practitioner training and interactive resources supporting children's early **language** and **social development** through oral storytelling.

One package includes everything a setting needs.

Every subscribed setting gets the full package:

1. Whole team interactive Online Training
2. Physical Storytelling Resources
3. Webinars with Experts
4. Library of Digital Resources
5. Ongoing Support

Watch a short video with more info on our training.



What's the impact?

Independent research shows impact across EYFS curriculum goals

Goldsmiths University of London published a Tales Toolkit study in 2018 using school data to track progress. The data showed **significantly increased attainment across several key areas**:

- Communication and Language
- PSED
- Literacy
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts & Design
- Boys' Writing*

*Tales Toolkit closed the gender Literacy gap by 62% while in settings *not* using Tales Toolkit, the gap widened by 22%.
Read more on our website.

Lead on our study

Children in schools using Tales Toolkit make more progress.



Dr Alice Jones-Bartoli

Deputy Director of Education and Early Years at NCB *and* Director of School & Family Studies at Goldsmiths University

Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

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READ THE RESARCH

EEF Report

Independent research shows impact across EYFS curriculum goals

Education Endowment Foundation

In 2025, results from a pilot study with the EEF were released. The pilot took part in Schools, Nurseries and PVI settings. Here are some of the findings:

- Positive outcomes in **CLL** and **PSED**, including **creativity**, storytelling, writing, vocabulary, speech, **problem-solving**, turntaking, and sharing.
- Notable changes in practice in supporting children's **language**, **quality interactions**, **collaborative play**, storytelling, and **child-led learning**.
- Positive outcomes for children with **SEND** and **EAL**.

Education Endowment Foundation

READ THE RESULTS

click here

Staff and children were highly engaged and motivated by Tales Toolkit!



Tales Toolkit is inclusive

SEND

EEF and Goldsmiths University research highlights positive impact for children with SEND

"We are currently using Tales Toolkit across our semi-formal curriculum pathway to support literacy and narrative skills. We are also finding great impact when discussing problems and solutions encountered by students."
Communication & Literacy Lead, Foreland Fields SEND School

EAL

ALL settings agreed that it was accessible to children with EAL*

"I have observed a number of our EAL children acting out the stories with props after a session. Using consistent story language backed with visuals has supported them to understand and use new vocabulary." EYFS Lead, Childeric Primary School

Pupil Premium

87% agreed that it supported children eligible for EYPP*

"The success that we have within our school with these children has encouraged another school within the Trust to adopt the Tales Toolkit programme to support their higher numbers of EYPP children." Principal, Cheam Common Infants Academy



*Statistics taken from user survey data from 49 settings, collected March 2025



All staff, new and experienced, have embraced Tales Toolkit with real enthusiasm and we are reaping the benefits!



In the days leading up to it people actual say to me "It's Tales Toolkit training next week … can't wait!"

The children have been able to access this independently. They have been keen to re-tell stories to adults and we see their **confidence** grow.

I'm lucky enough to hear about many fantastic and innovative ideas. But rarely do I get to see ideas as lively as Tales Toolkit.



A clear and consistent approach to developing storytelling with young children, regardless of their **language** levels, gender or understanding



Tales Toolkit is now part of our culture. It permeates everything we do: dealing with **everyday problems**, experimenting with new ideas…

We could never have predicted just how **impactful** and essential this resource and training would be.

Yes, definitely one of the best resources we have bought this year- an educational bargain!





Over the past two years TTK has become an invaluable resource to the staff, children and parents. TTK can be used with soooo many children.



In a short time, children's confidence in speaking out, **expressing their ideas**, engaging in stories, increased for all chiildren.

Our boys in particular are more **keen to write** than we have ever known before!

We are so impressed with the **language development** and creative story **writing** of all the children, especially our boys. Thank you again!

