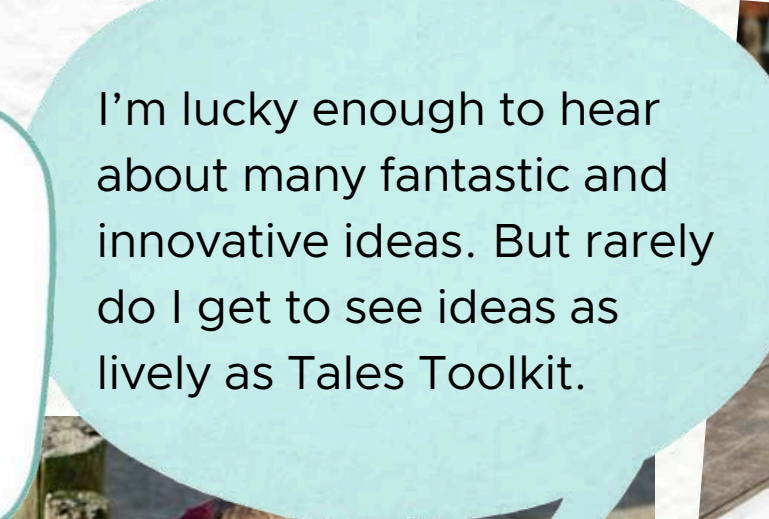
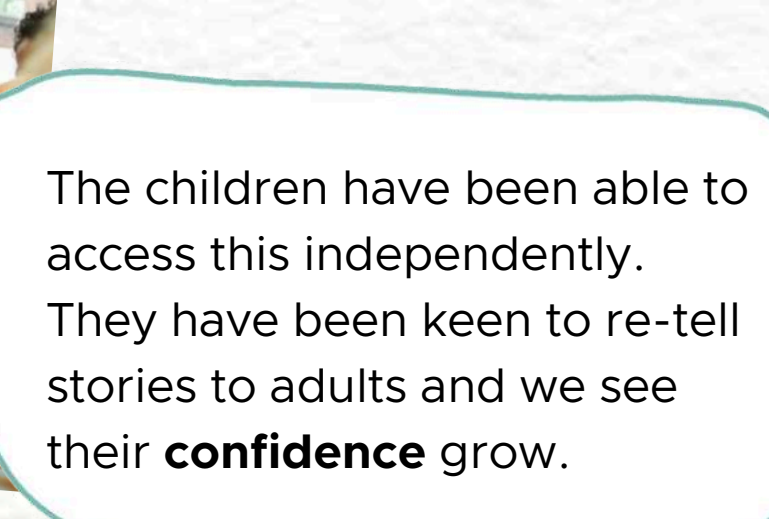




Tales Toolkit

Working with Local Authorities



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!"

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

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.

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

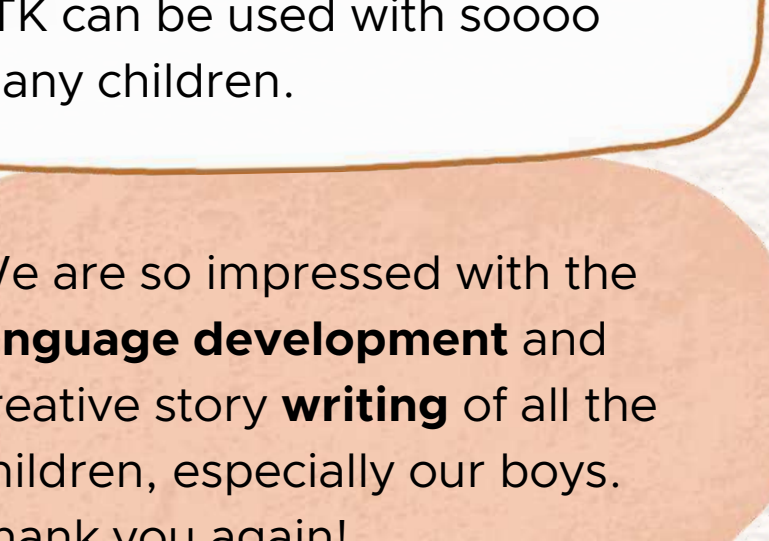
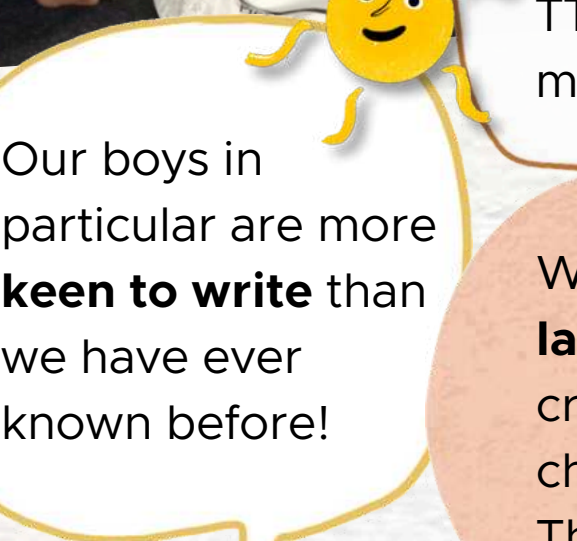
Yes, definitely one of the best resources we have bought this year- an educational bargain!

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

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.

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!



What is Tales Toolkit?

Helping children tell the stories that matter to them

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

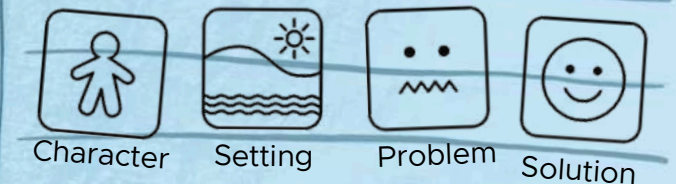
One package includes everything a setting needs - **no hidden costs!**

Every subscribed setting gets the full package:

- 1 Online Training
- 2 Physical Resources
- 3 Webinars with Experts
- 4 Library of Digital Resources
- 5 Ongoing Support



We worked with children to develop these simple, pictorial symbols for story structure.



They can be understood from an early stage of development (pre-lingual), they are understandable and accessible to different neurotypes, and across languages.

How does it work?

Quality interactions that lead to independent storytelling

1: Online training course for the entire team

Five online training videos accessed through our portal, watched as a team, with collaborative activities. We recommend the videos are delivered over a term, leaving time to embed practice.

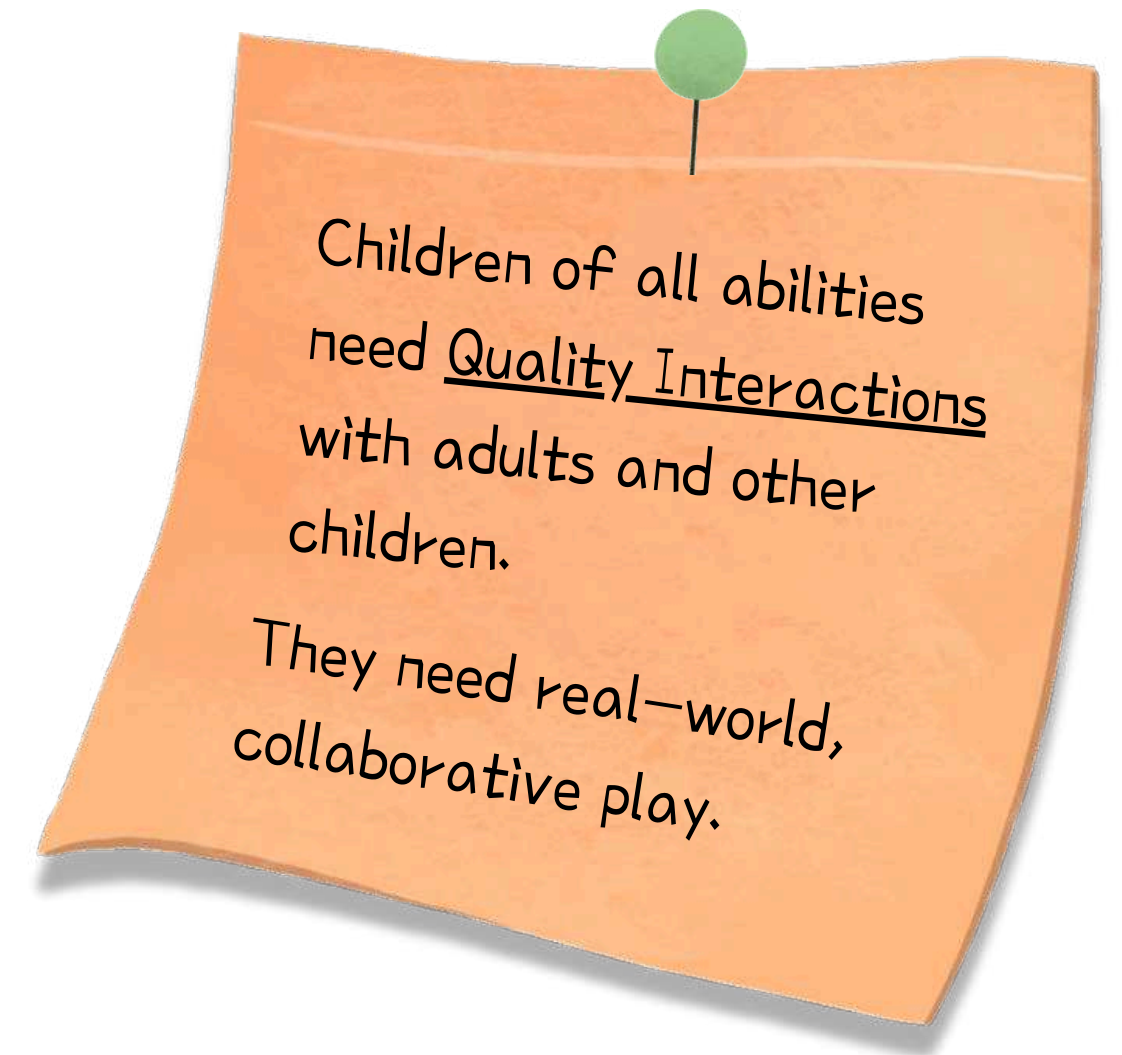
2: Group story sessions with the children

We encourage settings to run at least one group story session with all children per week. By implementing this regular foundational practice children...

- Become familiar with story structure
- Learn that using language and creating stories is fun - you can't get it wrong!
- Gain confidence using their voice in a group dynamic
- Find ways to be creative with language and communication
- Gain important social skills such as turn-taking and collaborative problem-solving

3: Storytelling in independent play, preparation for writing

Once children are comfortable with the structure, practitioners encourage storytelling throughout the provision, with opportunities for independent play that provide the foundation for writing.



What's the impact?

Independent research shows impact across EYFS curriculum goals

Goldsmiths University of London

In 2018, Dr Alice Jones Bartoli published a study that showed Tales Toolkit's positive impact. We ran a trial, comparing control settings with those using Tales Toolkit. We used 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 attainment gap between boys and girls by 62% while in settings *not* using Tales Toolkit, the gap widened by 22%. See graphs on next slides or [read more on our website](#).

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

click to
download

[READ THE RESEARCH](#)

Increased attainment in settings using Tales Toolkit

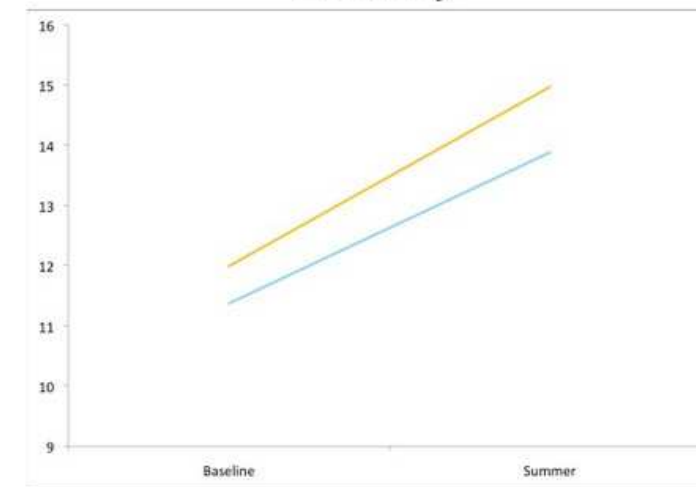
The steeper yellow lines show children using Tales Toolkit improving faster than their peers in control groups. This trend is replicated across several key areas of learning.

■ Settings using Tales Toolkit
■ Control Settings

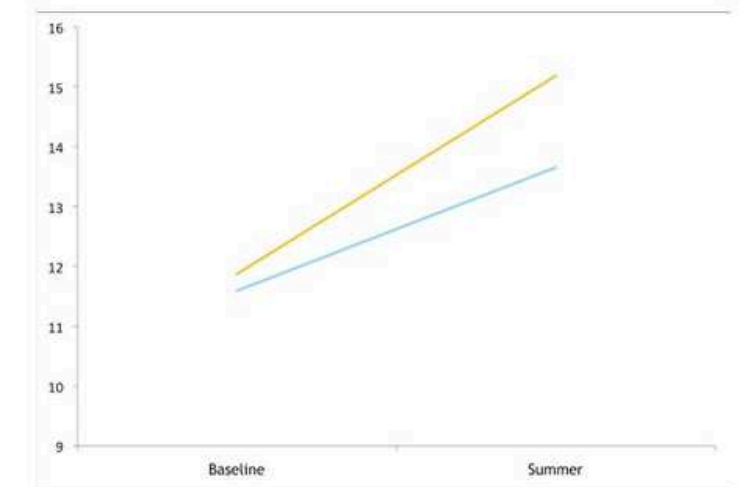
Communication & Language



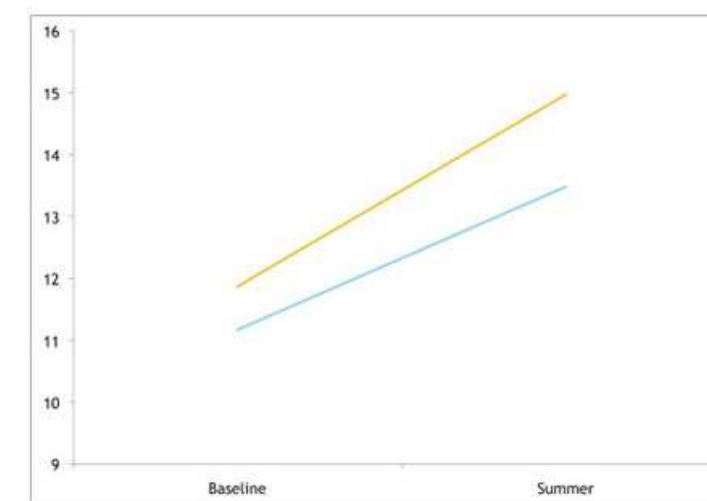
Literacy



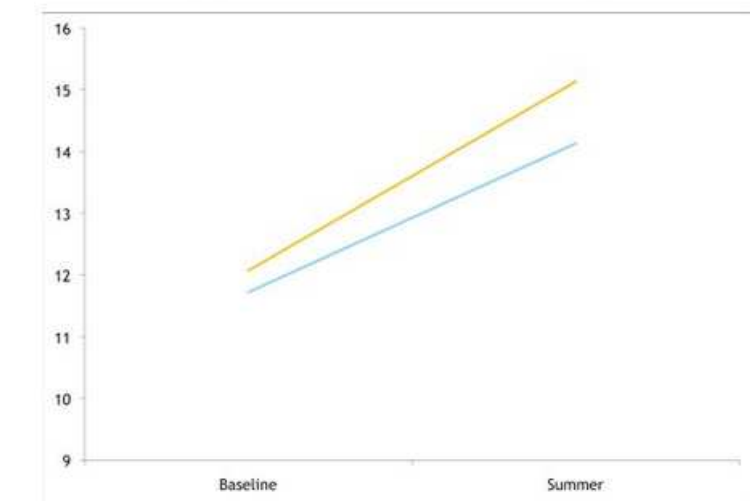
Personal Social & Emotional Development



Understanding the World



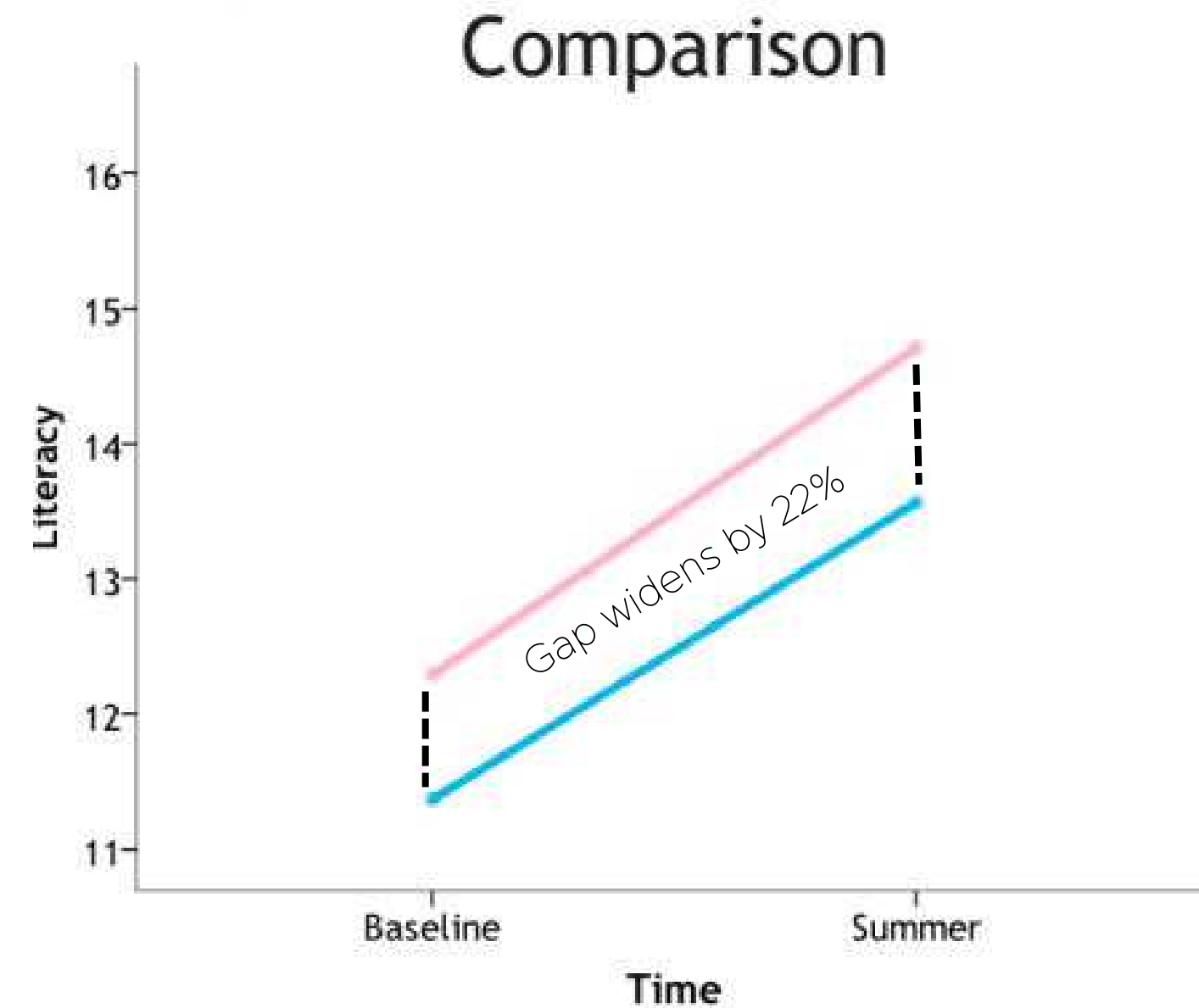
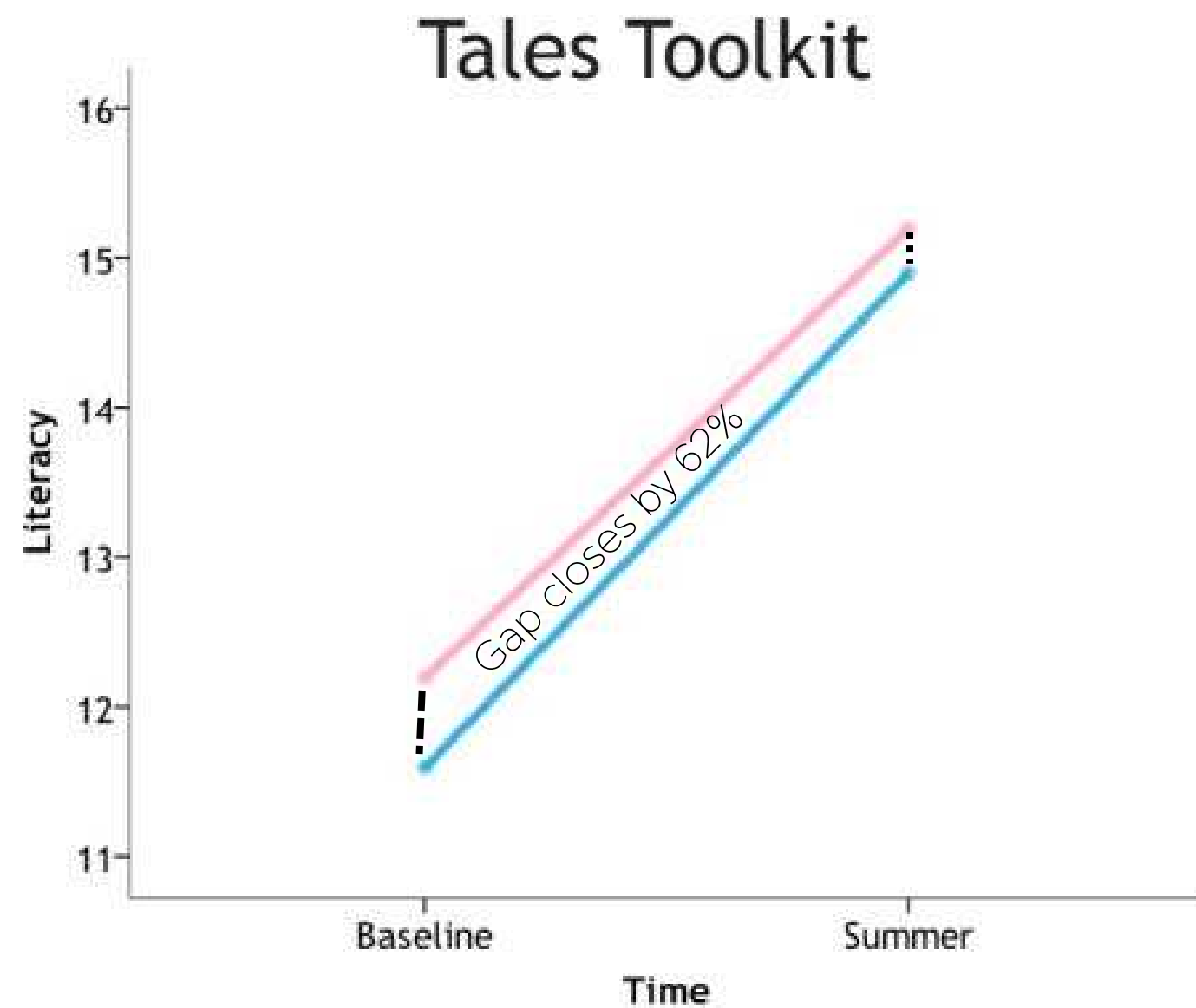
Expressive Arts & Design



Closing the gap with Boys' Writing

Graph on the left shows literacy attainment with Tales Toolkit and on the right, without. **Boys using Tales Toolkit caught up to the girls, closing the gap by 62%.** Meanwhile the gap between boys and girls increased by 22% in the control group. [Read more.](#)

Girls
Boys



What's the impact?

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**.



[READ THE RESULTS](#)

click here

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



How we work with local authorities

We have long-standing relationships with several local authorities in the UK, some returning to us year after year.

We **tailor support to meet the needs of the team/area**. Some of our past support strategies have included:

- Introductory welcome meeting with the Tales Toolkit founder, Kate Shelley
- Facilitated online training sessions
- Dedicated communication channels (e.g. WhatsApp community)
- Exclusive termly drop-in sessions on topics determined by your practitioners
- Collaborate on an annual strategy to target the needs of your settings
- Personalised feedback from Tales Toolkit Founder on observed storytelling sessions
- Lead setting assigned to assist delivery and embedding

Benefits for Local Authorities

- 1 Single annual purchase for each setting to support the entire EYFS team and improve attainment across the EYFS, regardless of the child's background or ability.
- 2 Local Authority and a lead setting act as best-practice hub to improve fidelity throughout the area.

Past partnerships:

Local Authorities

Oxfordshire
Rochdale
Stockport
St Helens
Haringey

Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs

Thames Valley
Kent and Beyond
Bristol and Beyond
HEART - Midlands

A Brighter Start: East London - The lead setting for the East London Hub was one of the very first Tales Toolkit trial settings.

[Read more about what they have to say about Tales Toolkit on the SPH website >>](#)

What are the benefits for...?

Practitioners

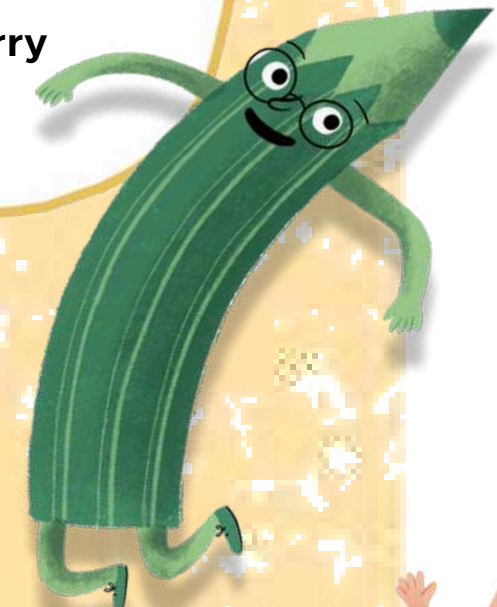
- 1 Training for the entire team - regardless of role or experience
- 2 Train flexibly, on a schedule that works for them
- 3 More time with the children, creating those all important quality interactions
- 4 Ongoing support from the Tales Toolkit team to improve and support practice
- 5 **Less planning!** Every Tales Toolkit session is designed to be minimal planning

Children

- 1 Time for play! The most effective way to learn
- 2 Social skills - improved turn-taking and problem-solving
- 3 Improved language and communication
- 4 **Every child is included** - designed to be accessible and adaptable (**EAL, SEND**)

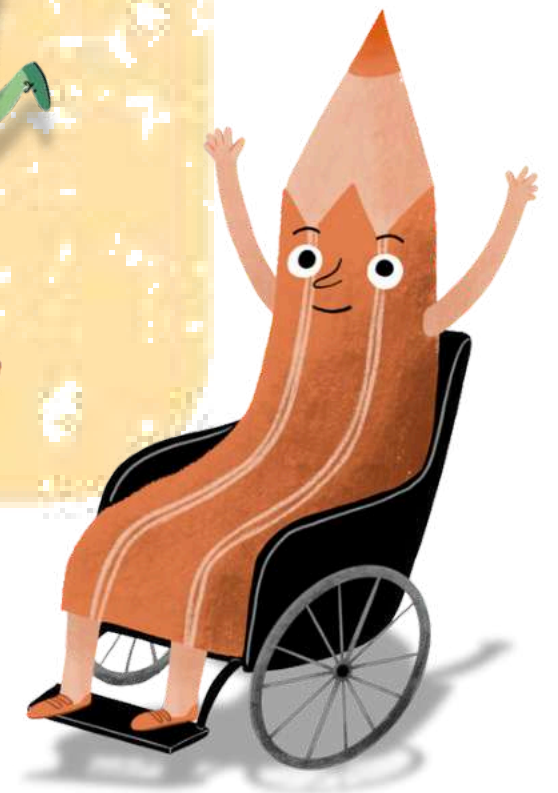
“The training brings a wealth of sound practice in an accessible and supportive format which you can watch again and again and we have!”

**Alexandra Law -
Headteacher at Harry
Roberts School**



“It taps into every area of development - communication, PSED, maths... It’s about the individual unique child and having fun!”

Sandra - EY Teacher at Kintore Way



Tales Toolkit is inclusive, supporting...

SEND

Research from EEF, Goldsmiths University and Tales Toolkit all highlight a 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

In settings using Tales Toolkit with 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% of Tales Toolkit settings agreed that it supported children eligible for Pupil Premium*

“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

2-year-olds

“Tales Toolkit ... has supported the 2 year olds to develop their play ... increasingly engaging in story play driven by simple narrative ideas.” Alison Hanson, Childminder

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

Partnerships



EARLY YEARS STRONGER PRACTICE HUBS






Education Endowment Foundation

The LEGO Foundation





ST HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL

CHICKENSHEd

THEATRE CHANGING LIVES

hundrED



OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Goldsmiths

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

ies

institute for employment studies

OVO FOUNDATION



THE MERCERS' COMPANY



Fair Education Alliance

Awards



bett AWARDS 2025 WINNER

Early Years Product or Service



era 2021 WINNER



era 2021 HIGHLY COMMENDED



Nursery World EQUIPMENT & RESOURCES AWARDS 2019 GOLD



Nursery World EQUIPMENT & RESOURCES AWARDS 2019 GOLD

TeachFirst INNOVATION PARTNER 2015/2016

UnLtd Award Winner



Teach Early Years awards 2018 Finalist



Teach First Innovation Award COMMUNITY CHOICE 2015/2016



Teach Early Years AWARDS 2019

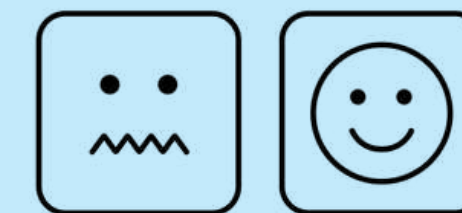
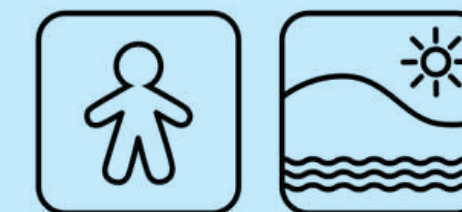
Thank you!

“ 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

Keep in touch!

talestoolkit.com | info@talestoolkit.com | [@talestoolkit](https://www.instagram.com/talestoolkit)



Tales Toolkit
everyone has a story

