

TELLING TALES

Discover the Art of Storytelling with Heather Sharpe

Telling Tales is a six day course for Parents, Grandparents and Carers of Early Years and Primary Children. It is designed to be delivered in individual and/or clusters of schools with support from teachers and parent support workers.

CONTEXT:

Heather Sharpe is a qualified teacher and highly experienced storyteller. Heather developed *Telling Tales* in response to the success of her story telling sessions in Leeds Primary Schools which have become a regular fixture of National Storytelling Week.

Telling Tales is a tried and tested model which has already been delivered in 11 Leeds Primary Schools including Greenhill, Raynville, Armley, Christ Church Upper Armley, Ryecroft, Castleton, Whingate, Kirkstall Valley, Clapgate, Windmill and Hunslet Moor.

Due to its tremendous success in increasing parents' confidence and enabling them to support their children's literacy, we are promoting the course and encouraging other schools across the city to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity.

PURPOSE:

The course provides a safe, structured learning process for parents, under the guidance of a professional storyteller. Participants listen to stories, develop their storytelling skills and create their own tales to share with children. This course offers schools an opportunity to

- Engage with parents including those identified as 'hard to reach' through a carefully managed process that rewards participants with a positive experience of school life.
- Build community cohesion by valuing and sharing stories across cultural and ethnic groups.

AIMS:

The course enables parents and carers to:

- Support their children's skills in literacy and improve their children's motivation as learners.
- Improve their own literacy and communication skills.
- Increase confidence and self esteem.
- Provide a bridge for further support (the course has proved particularly beneficial when run alongside STEPS).
- Build positive family relationships.
- Affirm their sense of identity and belonging by researching and telling local community stories.
- Work together and build new friendships.
- Devise and perform for a selected audience.
- Celebrate their success and gain a certificate on completion.

COURSE OUTLINE:

6 Day Course – 1 day a week over 6 weeks

DAY 1 - Introductory Away Day

Based at Leeds City Art Gallery and/or a heritage site eg. Armley Mills or the Discovery Centre; this includes a workshop and introduction to storytelling using artefacts, a tour of the site, refreshments and suggested activities to be completed at home.

DAY 2,3,4 and 5 - Based in school

Morning: mutually supportive storytelling workshops.

Afternoon: Heather tells stories to selected classes accompanied by parents. Parents are encouraged to contribute as their confidence builds.

Discussion, further workshops and activities to try at home.

DAY 6 - In school celebration and evaluation

Parents are awarded with certificates and tell stories collected and created during the course for a selected audience of children and staff.

Parents, Staff and Heather assess the outcomes and impact of the course.

Please note:

There will need to be a **Pre course visit** - with Link Teacher/Learning Coordinator/Parent Support Worker who is committed to attending the course and supporting participants by brokering links and relationships.

Telling Tales is for adults only and younger children **cannot** be brought to the sessions.

SCHOOL/CLUSTER REQUIREMENTS:

A named teacher/parent support or learning support worker will be required to support the course.

This course offers a professional development opportunity for a member of staff to learn new skills. These will be transferable to other members of staff and will enhance their own practice with children and parents.

This role is key and the member of staff will be required to:

- support and encourage attendance
- liaise with teachers and other school/cluster staff to optimise impact in school/cluster
- identify further educational and/or social needs of parents.

Additionally the school/cluster will need to provide:

- A suitable space in the morning where Heather can work with the adult group undisturbed and a space where the group can gather at the end of the day for reflection, discussion and further ideas.
- Tea and coffee for the participants.
- Somewhere for the group to eat a packed lunch, if they wish to stay in school.
- Access to small groups and/or classes of children to be participants when required over five days of the course.
- Support transport arrangements if required on Day One

Cost and availability:

Telling Tales is available to schools and clusters at a cost of **£1880**

We can broker links with Cluster Managers and Extended Services where necessary.

Any transport arrangements will need to be arranged by the school or cluster at additional cost.

This course is available from 26th April 2010 – 23rd July 2011

Please note: Telling Tales is only available on **Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays** during term time.

The start day (day one) takes place at a heritage site likely to be closest to your school. Identified parents will assemble at the school and then travel to the heritage site to begin the course. Please indicate your preferred start date, we will then confirm availability with the heritage site and notify you. Where possible we will try to match your preferred start day but please be aware some flexibility may be required. (If preferred we can arrange a half day away and the other half in school.)

Telling Tales is only available for a maximum of **3 schools per half term**. We advise you to **book as soon as possible** to avoid disappointment. Schools will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Booking Form

TELLING TALES Story telling for Parents and Carers Heather Sharpe



School	
Telephone	
Lead Teacher Name	
Email	
Link teacher or support worker name and contact details.	Name:
	Contact Details:
Estimated Number of Parents (Maximum 14)	
Why do you wish to be involved in this activity?	

Preferred dates: decide which day you would prefer Telling Tales to take place in your school. Please indicate a start day and date and then, where possible, use the same day (Monday, Thursday or Fridays only) repeated over 6 weeks, being careful to avoid any weeks that may be school holidays or training days.

Day 1 (start day) tbc with venue	Day 2	Day 3
Date	Date	Date
Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
Date	Date	Date

I agree to our contribution of £1880

Headteacher's signature: _____ Date: _____

SIMS Order No: _____ Budget code: _____

Please Fax this form back to Helen Taylor at ArtForms on 0113 230 4073

TELLING TALES

Testimonials

'I didn't know we could talk to each other like that'

Leeds Mum after story making with her daughter

'I'm going back to big up my Mum. She's ace.'

Year 6 boy after hearing his mum's story.
(The previous week he had run away from home)

'The parents who took part had a fantastic time with Heather and learned so much about putting stories together, including retelling stories. Feedback from the children was all positive and they were very proud when their parents were presented with a certificate at the end of the course. I feel the project was a huge success and am hoping to offer the course again during this school year.'

Janet Harris
Child & Family Support Manager
Whingate Primary School

'Heather Sharpe is an experienced, talented storyteller who has worked in the West on many projects. All schools in our wedge were offered the opportunity to work with Heather and invited parents to learn storytelling skills. This worked well on many levels. Firstly, my school targeted "hard to reach" families who needed to engage to support their child effectively. Secondly, the children of the invited families became increasingly motivated to learn! The parents had a positive experience of school to share with their children- maybe the first positive experience they have had themselves within the education system. Thirdly, self esteem increased with those who took part and some parents are in college now because of this. Heather built up the activities carefully and by the end of the 5 days the parents had co-written a tale that fitted in with our school's heritage and history. One parent is going to come in and tell the tale to a group of year 2 children! Amazing!'

Andrea Riley
Assistant Head teacher
Castleton Primary