



Bristol & Beyond
Stronger Practice Hub

Helicopter Stories and Poetry Basket Information Sheet

Would your nursery, preschool or nursery class like to become one of the Early Years settings in our SPH region to use Helicopter Stories and Poetry Basket to develop children's communication and language as well as emotional development?

The Bristol & Beyond Early Years Stronger Practice Hub is working with Make Believe Arts to bring Helicopter Stories and Poetry Box to 80 early years settings in the following Local Authority areas: **North Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Gloucestershire, Bristol and Bath and North East Somerset.**

To apply to be part of this project you need to demonstrate that your early years setting is fully committed to learning about and delivering Helicopter Stories on a weekly basis.

What is Helicopter Stories?

Helicopter Stories On Demand gives up to 4 members of your team, **ONE YEAR'S** access to this online training. The course includes everything you need to begin delivering Helicopter Stories in your setting. Helicopter Stories can be used with children aged 2 to 7 years old.

Helicopter Stories utilises the power of story and poetry to enhance children's communication and language development, as well as emotional development.

Why get involved in HS? What have others said about it?



"Despite being non-verbal, Alex regularly tells stories using the communication mats, demonstrating his understanding of story structure, and showing great pride in his work. The other children are also eager to tell their stories. Many of them find the process of writing difficult but having an adult scribing their words has really helped.

A class that struggled to integrate have begun listening and giving good eye contact to each other during their Helicopter Stories sessions. Across the board, children are exhibiting new found confidence and resilience, and where previously they may have had issues with proximity, these disappear when they are acting out their stories." Westhaven School



"As childcare practitioners, we are well-aware of the benefits of sharing poetry with children in terms of development and wellbeing; it increases motivation to read, builds phonemic awareness, encourages vocabulary, helps with recall, encourages listening and attention, provides an outlet to express feelings and emotions."

"The Poetry Basket provided a framework to support communication and emotional development. Regularly reciting the poems in the setting and at home enabled children to develop their confidence, independence, and language skills." Lakehouse and Stationhouse Nurseries

Each setting will be provided with the following resources:

- A year of access to Helicopter Stories on Demand online professional development training. 1 license per setting provides access for 4 practitioners to everything they need to know on How to Deliver Helicopter Stories. See more below.
- 1 x Princesses, Dragons and Helicopter Stories by Trisha Lee
- 1 x The Woman Who Cooked Everything, (a book of children's stories)
- Lifetime access to the Poetry Basket online programme. 1 license per setting provides 2 log-ins per setting and access to 36 online videos demonstrating poems and actions, 3 downloadable poetry booklets and access to a film about why poetry is important.



Helicopter Stories Course Outline:

- Helicopter Stories on Demand is roughly 5 and a half hours of footage. These are broken down into discreet units outlined below. In addition to these videos, there are tasks and additional reading that can be completed.
- The course is **presented by Trisha Lee** in 25 bite-sized units and can be accessed at any time, day or night as long as you have an internet connection.
- The training goes into great detail about the Helicopter Stories approach and how to make it a regular part of your practice.
- Each lesson contains **a video of between 10 to 15 minutes**, alongside relevant downloadables, simple tasks to help you absorb the material and additional reading suggestions.
- Each unit includes actual footage of children aged 2 – 7 years old, engaging with Helicopter Stories.

The course includes:

- Introduction to Helicopter Stories and what to expect
- Stage 1 - introducing story acting
- Stage 2 - introducing Story scribing
- Stage 3 - private storytelling
- Stage 4 - acting Out



It also includes units on:

- Grammar
- Emerging Writers
- The power of story
- Violence and weapon play
- Top tips for twos
- Working with Children with Additional Needs
- Creating a Language Rich Environment

Make Believe Arts will also be providing settings in each LA with a launch session, to bring settings together at the start of the course, two remote support sessions and a presentation and reflection session at the end. Your LA early years team will also be alongside and supporting your journey, as well as the Stronger Practice Hub C,L&L network lead.

Time Commitment for Practitioners

- 1 x Launch - 45mins
- 2 x Remote support sessions – 2 x 3 hours
- 1 x Presentation session - 90 mins
- Helicopter Stories On Demand Course - 5 ½ hours of videos
- Plus time for reading and tasks – 5-6 hours (Each practitioner is expected to commit to leading 1 in-class/ room session per week)

Schedule and Key Programme Activities:

Apr/May 24	Jun – Aug 24	Sept – Dec 24	Jan – Mar 25	April/May 25
Recruitment, selection and confirmation of settings by SPH and LAs	Online Launch of Programme (45 minutes) and Online access to Helicopter Stories starts	1 x Remote support session (3 hours)	1 x Remote support session (3 hours)	1 x Presentation session (1.5 hours)
	A minimum of 1 in-class/ room session per week that each practitioner commits to leading	A minimum of 1 in-class/ room session per week that each practitioner commits to leading	A minimum of 1 in-class/ room session per week that each practitioner commits to leading	A minimum of 1 in-class/ room session per week that each practitioner commits to leading

If you are selected to be part of this programme, your setting will need to commit to the following.



- To release the programme leads to complete all online training and attend all twilight support sessions as detailed above.
- To enable all 4 practitioners to attend training, to access the online resources and to apply and share their learning.
- To allow the SPH and/ or Make Believe Arts to seek parental permission to film and photograph children participating in the project for specified purposes.

Programme Leads and Practitioner commitment:

- To attend all training, and to commit to running Helicopter Stories in your setting/school for a minimum of once a week.
- To use The Poetry Basket with your children
- To read Princesses, Dragons and Helicopter Stories and all other reading provided by Make Believe Arts
- To share data and anecdotal stories with Make Believe Arts and the SPH about the children's development, as requested
- To assist Make Believe Arts and the SPH in evaluating this programme
- Programme leads and practitioners will also be joined to the new SPH regional C,L& L network.

To Express an Interest in being part of Helicopter Stories and Poetry Box, you must complete an Expression of Interest form by the 30th April.

There is a different form for each Local Authority.

You can find all of the forms here: <https://beyth.co.uk/sph/eef/>

If you have any questions about this programme please email: sph@beyth.co.uk