

Time to Read 2017

Introduction

Time to Read the programme supported by the Book Trust to encourage the sharing of stories in families was used as the focus for a major programme by Neighbourhood Services/Leicester Libraries of Storytelling in the Foundation Stages of Leicester Schools. The key concern is a lack of shared family time with books/stories. Time to Read aims to encourage families to read together more ,it is vital that parents/carers who often can lack confidence in engaging with their children with books will have the resources and increased confidence in “sharing” and “ speaking and listening.”

The Storytelling programme emphasises the enjoyment of the shared experience. The Time to Read packs are gifted to Foundation 2 children to support and encourage the sharing of books/stories in families at home This year we again offered the opportunity to extend the promotion to the entire Foundation Stage, and the majority of schools extended the gifting and promotional events to the Foundation 1 children with the Bookstart Treasure packs. This clearly increases the impact of the story sharing promotion throughout the Foundation Stage. Schools can use it as a basis for a week long activity which increases its impact on children and more importantly parents/carers.

The early notification of the project before the summer break and the active support of Whatever It Takes through the Reading Champions and its Newsletter Increased the participation of schools in Leicester. The significant increase in the numbers of parents/carers attended is important as they play the major role in supporting story sharing at home among their children.. This reflects a clear effort by schools to increase their engagement with their parents/carers, with a number of schools using the opportunity of the Time to Read programme to promote story sharing and book use throughout their Foundation Stages. A promotional programme featuring storytelling/gifting of packs/information for parents and carers was delivered in schools/libraries/children centres – inspiring and enabling children and adults to share stories together. The evaluation from the Foundation Staff indicated that the content and delivery of these sessions were effective and positively regarded, with **83%** rating them very good and **16%** good. The rating of **100%** for “Was the range of stories suitable for your children” recognised not only the professionalism of the Storytellers but also the outstanding choice by the Book Trust of Bumble Bear by Nadia Shireen of the gifted book in the Time To Read pack which the children took home. This is vital as it meant an engaging and funny book with excellent illustrations was put directly into the hands of children/parents/carers to share together at home –some previous gifted titles have not had the same quality or impact – we need to make sharing stories at home as easy and satisfying as possible –especially for those families who lack the experience and confidence in sharing stories with their children.

Schools reported a **100%** positive response to What their children gained from the session “with particular emphasis on the impact on listening and language skills, storytelling experience with different adults, excitement and enjoyment of the storytelling.” The impact of the sessions clearly extended beyond the immediate experience with **89%** of teaching staff inspired to carry out follow up activities to enhance and extend the impact of the Storytelling programme.

Given the focus on the story sharing at home it is the impact on the parents/carers which is of importance. The response was very positive – with **86%** rating the sessions Great and **11%** Good. In addition **95%** of those attending the sessions said that the event would help them to use stories/books with their children. The excitement and enjoyment of the story sessions acted as a clear example to the parents/carers of the importance of actively engaging with children through the use of stories, books and language. Importantly a significant number **35%** said their children were not current library members – so it was not a case “of preaching to the converted” and the increase of library membership- **456** - for this age group in the period of the Time To Read programme indicates impact of targeted promotional activities.

Neighbourhood Services Storytelling

£ 500 Storytelling support

Targets

4700 children gifted Time To Read packs
4000 children attend partnership story events
800 adults attend
500 new library members

Delivery

4700 Time to Read packs delivered
Treasure Gift Packs (Foundation 1) 2300
4824 children attended
1226 adults attended
456 new library members
103 Time to read Promotional events

Location

84% schools
14% libraries
2% children centre

Promotional Programme

	From	To	Increase from 2017
No of Schools	47	62	19%
Events	83	103	24%
Children attendance	4197	4824	13%
Parents/Carers	600	1226	51%

Impact evidence

Overall assessment

Teaching staff

83% very good
16% good
1% adequate

Parent/Carers

86% great
11% good
3% ok

For parent/carers: "Will this event help you use stories/books with your children?"

95% yes
5% no

Comments from the Foundation Stage staff evaluations

Was the range of stories suitable for your children?

100% yes

What do you think the children gained from the session?

100% positive

Will you be carrying out any follow-up activities with your children?

89% yes
11% no

Evaluation Comments from Foundation Stage Staff

Was the range/choice of stories suitable for your children?

Very suitable and I liked the way the librarian retold the story rather than reading it, so that it was pitched at the right level for the children.

Good response from the parents who said it was inspirational and that it had given them ideas for storytelling at home.

Fantastic!

A good choice, an interactive engaging stay, very well told and lots of opportunity for children involvement.

The story was a great choice that all of the children were able to access.

Excellent book choice.

Children were all engaged.

Yes – the story was super, children were engaged & had lots of questions & ideas

Lovely and interactive read at a nice pace for the children.

It was a great book choice, they loved it.

Yes perfect!

Yes Bumble bear a lovely age appropriate fun text.

What do you think the children gained from the session?

They spoke animatedly about the stories and were very excited about the story pack and the book they could keep!

The chance for them to listen to a story with their parent. And an excellent modelling session for parents, on how to share stories.

Very suitable and I liked the way the librarian retold the story rather than reading it, so that it was pitched at the right level for the children.

Yes, the choice of stories was excellent. The children were very engaged and thoroughly enjoyed joining in with the various actions and answering questions.

An inspirational story telling session which showed a love for books.

Development of language through vocabulary introduced in stories. Exposure to the language patterns in stories read. Opportunity to develop their listening skills.

The story telling session also gave children the experience to listen to 2 new stories told in a very different way to how the teachers do it.

The children showed excellent listening and attention skills as well as high levels of engagement because of the excellent delivery of the story.

They loved going to a new place to read and seeing reading in a different environment.

The opportunity to share stories with their parents – more importantly, and what several parents fed back to us, was how they enjoyed watching their children's faces and reactions to the stories being read.

Lively storytelling session and exposed children to high-quality books with the expectation that parents should be reading to their children.

The ability to concentrate and join in during story time.

An interactive story which was fun and listen to an adult speaking in dual language.

The experience of using the library together and the enjoyment of sharing the books.

It's a brilliant opportunity to get familiarised with the local library and become interested in books and reading at home.

Makes 'reading' super fun – Brilliant Storyteller! Experience of being in a library.

Enjoyment

Pleasure

Engagement with reading Fun!

The children were thoroughly engaged throughout the session. I thought that it was a really good opportunity for them to express their ideas.

Enjoyment of reading listening and attention skills responding to the text.

Enjoyment and excitement for stories.

Creativity & ideas

Good writing

Enjoyment of reading
Different & more expressive ways of telling stories
Listening and attention skills
Responding to the text
Answering questions.
Able to talk about their experiences.
They had enjoyment and were full engaged.
Enjoyment of stories.
Awareness of libraries.
Good listening skills – enjoying anticipating what was going to be on the page.
Children gained an animated love of storytelling.
Lots of them have spoken about asking parents to visit the library.
Interactive story, lots of questions & enjoyment.
Enjoyment listening to someone else telling a story.
Yes creating bear characters and re reading the story.
Bringing them back to the library getting class library cards.
We have given out reading books.
Continue to encourage children to read with their parents.
More/daily interactive stories. Yes – photos to talk about & put into learning journeys to keep interest in visiting the library.
Send home a “My child has said” sheet for parents to inform us what has been said at home.
Reading workshop for parents looking at story telling & how to share a book in Early December.
Reinforcing the message that stories are great to share, especially from the local library.

Will you be carrying out any follow-up activities with your children?

The children had the opportunity to join the library.
“I learned new things about how to tell the story for kids. Thank you very much.”
Regular storytelling and book share sessions.
Yes creating bear characters and re reading the story.
Bringing them back to the library. getting class library cards.
We will be completing a survey to see which families have shared their Time to Read book at home.
Yes – photos to talk about & put into learning journey to keep interest in visiting the library.
More/daily interactive stories
Reading café set up in the class room.
We will be having a ‘Reading Café’ with our parents and children after Christmas.
A lot of the children want to send pictures to the library of bumblebee.
Yes! To incorporate character props to make it more interesting.
Will be making our own story times more animated.
Yes. Look at more information about bees.
Taste some honey.
Yes, talking about our list looking at photos, sharing books together in class.
Hoping to encourage more parents to join library.
Yes we had a teddy picnic and made bumble bees.
They became aware of the purpose of the library, saw the fun side of reading and explored a range of story and picture books.
Reinforcing the message that stories are great to share, especially from the local library.
Send home a “My child said ...” sheet for parents to inform us what has been said at home.
We have given out reading books so will continue to encourage children to read with their parents.

Evaluation Comments from Parents/Carers

What was best

The bumble bear story was fun and so was the lady telling it.
The storyteller was amazing and fantastic. She told the story like an actress, active and she show all emotions in high level.
All the questions answered by children as they were asked.

Excellent interaction – kept children engaged.

Telling the story with action makes it easy for children to understand.

Interacting with the children getting them involved.

When the women was reading it was nice to see my child joining in.

The actions while reading.

Entertainment value of the story.

When they all shouted bumble bear.

Sitting together with children listening to stories.

The impressions of story tellers was imazing. I think it is difficult for me to tell the story as she told but from today I will try to copy her.

Lovely interaction between the children and the story teller.

Lady was absolutely amazing in engaging the children by asking the children questions.

Excellent sessions

Good engagement with children & super choice of story.

Jyoti was fab reading. She was so funny and made the children laugh. She kept them engaged!

Having been on this trip many times before, I thought that the children having time to handle books themselves was a lovely idea.

Everything is best. It's not only kids best for mum and dad as well. We had a lot of fun we enjoyed.

There was interaction with all the children, very beneficial and positive from start to finish.

The best thing all the children sitting together and listening to the story and what they do they faces say how they are enjoying it.

Everything was great. I learnt lots of teaching from it. I will try at home with my child.

The lady did brilliant children really enjoyed it. She told a story in very interesting way.

I think it's great as it gets all the children together and it gets them to feel like a part of the book.

Parents being able to attend and interact with own children & others. Importance of reading & looking at books.

The interaction of the staffs and getting a gift pack.

The children all listened well and the storyteller was great with them lots of funny voices she got into character well.

Children so engaged.

The story telling voices used enthusiasm was great could tell kids loved it.

Is there anything we can do better?

There is no problem at all. She made the children very active. She listened to their reactions.

More sessions at the similar kind.

Yes we like every 2 or 3 months like this.

Help the children to all have their own membership to the library.

I think it's great that children can listen and engage when someone is reading a story aloud.

Everything was perfect children enjoyed everything, that is the most important.

No it was really really good 😊