

Learning Newsletter



seven
stories
the national centre for children's books

Spring/Summer 2012

Early Years and Foundation Stage



Welcome

Seven Stories offers a range of opportunities to support Early Years practitioners to put books and stories at the heart of their work. Group visits to our unique visitor centre include time in our exciting exhibitions and an interactive *Step Into Story* multi-sensory workshop with games, songs and stories, or a *Families Learning Together* workshop for parents and children.

We can also bring our participatory events to your school or nursery, where our creative practitioners will engage children, staff, parents and parents-to-be in magical storytimes. Seven Stories also works with staff and parents to support deeper engagement and lasting impact around reading and the use of books to provide the very best start in life.

We firmly believe it is never too early for children to develop a love of reading for pleasure to last them a lifetime.



Bring your group to visit Seven Stories

EXHIBITION BOOKING NOW!



Dragons Opens October 2012

Inspired by Cressida Cowell's popular *How to Train Your Dragon* series, our next exhibition will take pupils into imaginary worlds to explore dragons including those from the North East.

A learning visit to Seven Stories includes *Step Into Story*, a multi-sensory workshop, and time to explore our ground breaking exhibition. Bring your group and journey into the magical world of children's books!

School visits 10.00 -12.00 or 12.30-2.30 term time
Exhibition visit + *Step Into Story* interactive workshop £3.95 per child
2 FREE teacher places per every 10 participants

EXHIBITION NOW OPEN!

A Squash and a Squeeze: Sharing Stories with Julia Donaldson

Open for school and group visits from Monday 19 March 2012 until February 2013 our brand new exhibition brings Julia Donaldson's captivating stories to life.

Follow in *Toddle Waddle's* footsteps, climb into the cave with the *Cave Baby* and meet *The Gruffalo* himself. Sing along to exciting songs on Julia's Jukebox or perform a play on our stage.

Your group will share stories and enjoy varied activities based on Julia's books in this unique exhibition which inspires young visitors with story, rhyme and rhythm.



All images © Axel Scheffler

For more information on school visits and offers contact: lisa.moll@sevenstories.org.uk
or call Lisa on 0845 271 0777 ext 719 or see www.sevenstories.org.uk/learning

Activities at your School

Plan an inspirational event at your school or nursery

Families Reading Together Taster Session

Parents, carers and under 5s | From £350

A positive family learning environment at home is key to children becoming successful learners in the future. During our family and learning sessions, parents, carers and their children have fun engaging in story sharing activities inspired by a selection of wonderful, high quality books. This session is inclusive and focuses on pictures to tell stories.

A Families Reading Together course over a number of weeks that also includes sessions at your venue and visits to Seven Stories, is a really successful way to build relationships with parents and carers and increase confidence to use and share books at home.

A 5 week course for up to 15 parents and their children is also available costing £1195.



CASE STUDY

Working Together with Families at Kingston Park Nursery

Kingston Park Nursery wished to encourage and support parents and children to share books at home. Seven Stories staff delivered a Families Reading Together Workshop, a Story Party and structured book browse at the nursery.

"The families reading together workshop was really enjoyable for all involved. A fantastic opportunity for staff, parents and children to work together to bring stories to life." Sarah Marshall, Reception Class Teacher, Kingston Park Nursery

"I enjoyed every aspect of this workshop and the opportunity to share it with my daughter. It was fun and informative. Thank you." Parent, Kingston Park Nursery

The families followed up their taster session in nursery with a family learning visit to Seven Stories' exhibitions.



Bookworm Babies at your Nursery

0-18 months | from £195 price depends on numbers

Bookworm babies encourages babies and grown ups to share the best picture books. Together we explore new ways to play with books, singing, moving and having lots of fun in a relaxed atmosphere.



Bookfairs

EY or FS | Free

We'll tailor a range of picture books to the needs of your early years class, using the expert knowledge of our book shop and learning teams. We can also select by theme or price. You can earn 15% commission on anything you sell, to spend on books or keep the cash – you choose.



The Smartest Giant in Town, Story Party on the Road

Suitable for children from 18 months to 5 years | From £195 depending on numbers

Our unique *The Smartest Giant in Town Story Party* can come to your school or nursery. We'll bring a fantastic selection of materials to bring the book to life for your class.

Each *Story Party* session lasts for an hour and includes songs and activities specially designed for Early Years or Foundation Stage.

Ask Lisa about other *Story Party on the Road* themes that are available.

CASE STUDY

Action for Children, Smartest Giant in Town Story Party

Seven Stories and national children's charity Action for Children worked together on an exciting UK-wide project. As part of an initiative exploring Julia Donaldson's books staff from twenty five



Action for Children projects across the country visited Seven Stories and explored how to develop their story telling skills in new creative ways.

They shared their new skills with colleagues and 450 children and 200 parents across the UK, running sessions to bring stories to life in creative ways.

This included delivering *The Smartest Giant in Town Story Parties* for younger children involving puppet-making, and creating crowns and giant clothes for the Giant.

'Even the youngest children enjoyed this activity, fascinated by the shiny shapes and the patterns they could make with the glitter on the table. One 3 year old spontaneously exclaimed 'this is brilliant'. Holworthy Children's Centre leader.

Support and Development for your staff



CPD & Development work

Professional Development for Nursery staff and child carers of 2 to 4 year olds | From £795 for a full day

We have a range of sessions to suit your needs. Here's an idea of the type of session we deliver...

Books and Play: Stories to feed the imaginative world

A love of books and story at an early age are the essential foundations for strong social, emotional and literacy development for all children. Explore a specially selected range of books and discover ways to expand these stories into unique experiences where children can lead their own play based learning. This session can be extended in to your setting by linking them with our *Story Party on the Road* sessions.



CASE STUDY

Story Party to inspire creativity in nurseries

Seven Stories worked with the teams at Jesmond and Elmfield nurseries to raise the profile of books and stories within each room. Staff took part in CPD whilst supporting and observing the delivery of a series of Seven Stories *Story Party* and *Bookworm Babies* sessions at the nurseries. Staff were inspired to put books at the heart of their practice and activities encouraged the children's creativity and imaginations.

"The sessions have been relaxed, organised and fun! The staff are so enthusiastic. I'm confident the changes have been made that will be long lasting." Heather Shannon, Manager Jesmond and Elmfield Nurseries:

"It was inspiring! A wide variety of books and different ideas for each one. I feel more confident about interacting with 0-1's and stories now, can't wait to give it a try!" Practitioner at Elmfield Nursery:



Order our Books...

Hooks into Books Packs delivered termly

NEW

EY (age 0-3) and FS (age 3-5)
£70 per term | Minimum 3 term
subscription

Following the success of our *Hook Into Books* packs for FS, KS1 and KS2, we are now delighted to offer special packs tailored specifically for children aged 0-3.

Our new Early Years *Hooks into Books* packs are specially designed to include a great selection of the best and latest picture books to share with your class.

We choose new titles each term and increase creative activities to help develop the love of stories. Each carefully selected pack is delivered to you at the beginning of each term.



"The packs include titles which I haven't seen before and have given me ideas and confidence to use them with my nursery class." Early Years Hooks into Books subscriber

SCHOOLS BOOK SHOP ACCOUNTS

A Seven Stories Bookshop Account offers you:

- 10% off orders under £100
- 15% off orders over £100
- Free mailing to anywhere in the UK
- Payment by cash, cheque, credit card or invoiced to your account

To open an account, contact bookshop@sevenstories.org.uk for more information and to order books.

Recommended Reads

Splendid Spotted Snake

Betty Schwarz

EY | £9.99

The newly-hatched snake is small and yellow with red spots. As he slithers through the book, past a changing landscape of desert, meadows and mountains, amazing changes start to take place. With each turn of the page, his lovely ribbed ribbon body magically grows longer and the spots change colour!



'Small fingers will love to touch the soft textured tape and adults and children alike will be fascinated by playing with this ingenious 3D book. With lots of opportunities for learning colours, counting and tactile fun, this brilliant board book from America is our favourite new "find". We bet you'll want to work out how it's done!'

Lisa Moll, Schools Co-ordinator

Anna Hibiscus Song

Atinuke Walker

EY | £11.99



Anna Hibiscus is happy. Surrounded by her extended family, she asks them what they do when they feel full of joy. Anna tries out every suggestion, laughing with her aunts as they pound yam, cartwheeling with her cousins, and dancing with her Uncle Tunde. Anna enjoys everything, but hasn't found the perfect way to express her elation... until she starts to sing.

'The joy in this charming book is really contagious! Gloriously vibrant and richly coloured, the illustrations are full of life and warmth. It celebrates the closeness of Anna's family and the everyday life of a family living in an African country.'

Sue Walters, Learning and Participation Co-ordinator

For more information on school visits and offers contact lisa.moll@sevenstories.org.uk or call Lisa on 0845 271 0777 ext 719 or see www.sevenstories.org.uk/learning

Feedback...

We would really like your feedback on our newsletter and hope that you will share it with your colleagues.

Email and postal mailing list

If you are not already on our mailing list for this termly newsletter and e-bulletins please sign up via our website www.sevenstories.org.uk or email lisa.moll@sevenstories.org.uk or ring Lisa on 0845 271 0777 x 719

Contact Us

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Open Monday – Saturday 10am–5pm
Sundays and Bank Holiday 10am–4pm

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