

Closing the Literacy Gap



Welcome to

Story
Lab





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Story Lab is a 12-week programme that uses storytelling to support early language skills and emotional development.

Your child will work with an expert tutor from the Children's Literacy Charity **twice a week for 30 minutes** in a small group of five children.

They will take part in an interactive storytelling session, using diverse stories to develop their literacy and social skills. Each session includes activities like rhyming, repetition, songs, games and discussion to boost vocabulary, listening, and engagement.



Children's early language experiences are critical to their cognitive development and act as a powerful predictor of their future educational achievement across the curriculum, social and emotional wellbeing and future opportunities.

Oracy Education Commission Report, 2024, 'We Need to Talk.'



"Reading and writing float on a sea of talk"

James Britton

Stories and Storytelling

Listening to and retelling stories help young children to develop vital early oracy skills, empathy and confidence. **Oracy is the ability to articulate ideas, develop understanding and engage with others through spoken language.** Without oracy, children may struggle to develop the communication skills needed to express themselves clearly and share their ideas.

The stories we use have been carefully chosen to be high quality, diverse, engaging and rich in vocabulary.

They will encourage children to use and develop:

- Repetitive language
- Rhyming words
- Clear sentence structures
- Language rhythms and patterns
- Emotional vocabulary
- Imagination

In their twice-weekly sessions, our expert tutors will use a range of engaging storytelling techniques to develop a child's ability to connect with and retell the stories.



89%

of our Literacy Lab graduates closed or significantly narrowed their literacy gap



Supporting Families

Families play a vital role in supporting their child's learning and we encourage parents and carers wherever possible to get involved:

- when a child has a Story Lab place, they are given a copy of the book to take home and keep, as well as suggestions of activities, rhymes, songs and games relating to the book that their parent or carer can try with them at home
- we offer parents and carers the opportunity to visit and see our work in action by visiting a Story Lab session
- we work with the school to hold coffee mornings for parents and carers to meet us and to learn more
- we run parent and carer workshops, introducing them to our work so that they can support their child at home

You can find tips, resources and more on how to support your child at home in the information section on our website at:
thechildrensliteracycharity.org.uk/helping-your-child-at-home/