

We inspire interactions that  
unlock stories in every child



“ It’s a really powerful approach to boosting  
communication and imaginative play. ”

**DR JULIAN GRENIER**



The littlest of  
people have  
the biggest  
potential.

**Tales Toolkit makes a difference  
where it matters, early on, setting  
children up for later success.**

## Welcome!

Feedback from schools using Tales Toolkit is “until you use it, you can’t imagine how effective it is”. Tales Toolkit has potential for such wide ranging impact but it’s tricky to get this across in a few words so we created this brochure with lots of information for you to read through.

Tales Toolkit is more than just story bags. We’ve been working with leading experts in education, outstanding settings and national teaching schools to ensure our online package is the best it can be. Improvements will continue as we learn from you.

## Tales Toolkit impacts:

- ✓ **Language**
- ✓ **Literacy**
- ✓ **Creativity**
- ✓ **Social skills**
- ✓ **Problem solving**
- ✓ **Boys writing**

We look forward to  
hearing your stories.

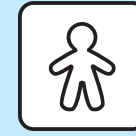




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**Character**

Once upon a time there was a teacher Kate (our founder) who had been a **EYFS Coordinator, Locality lead for the Children's centres and Deputy Head in Nursery School and Children's Centre.**



**Setting**

She worked in areas of high child poverty with high numbers of children with EAL, SEND and eligible for Pupil Premium.



**Problem**

Lots of children entered school low in language, confidence, creativity and social skills.



**Solution**

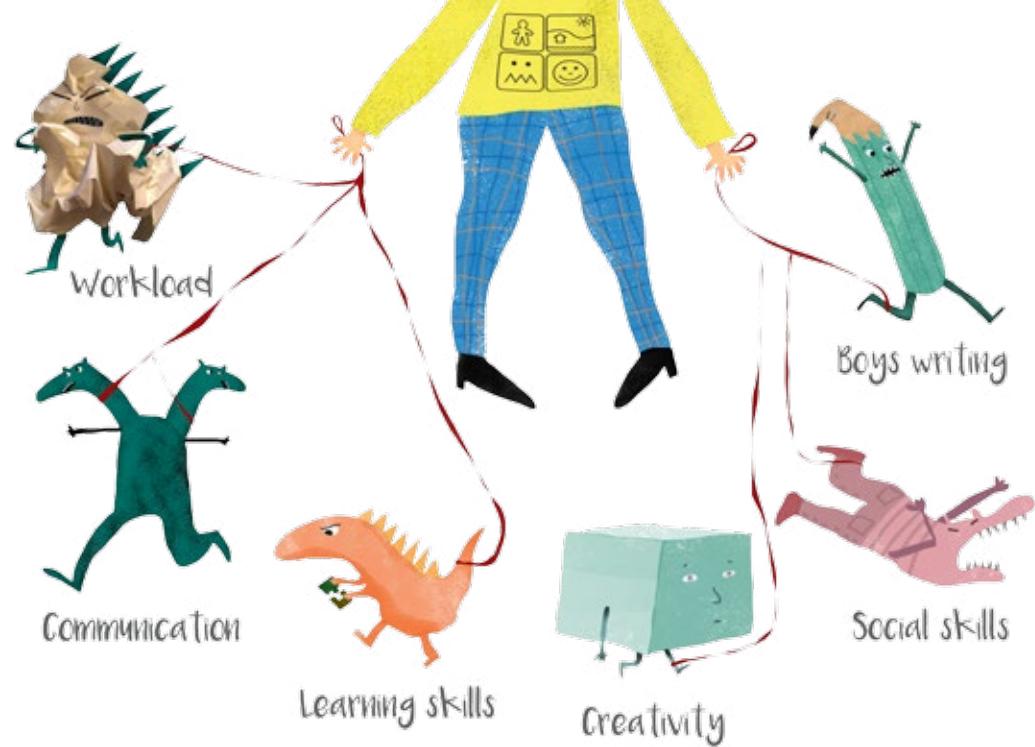
Kate searched for a solution to this problem. She created Tales Toolkit, a super powerful learning gizmo! Developed over time, in schools, made for a toolkit with maximum impact. And with little planning for teachers so everyone really did live happily ever.



# What's the problem?

## DO YOU...

- Spend lots of time planning?
- Find it difficult to engage boys with writing?
- Have lots of children entering school already behind with language development?
- Find it difficult to close the gap for children accessing pupil premium?
- Struggle to cover the curriculum while developing skills and following children's interests?



**85%** of brain development happens in the first five years so it's vital we make a difference while children are young to set them up for later success.

Researching the different problems faced in early years we found developing 'Quality interactions' key to making a difference. This is at the heart of all our work. Our training and resources are research based, work with children's individual needs and help to solve all the above problems and much more with far reaching impact across many areas of learning!

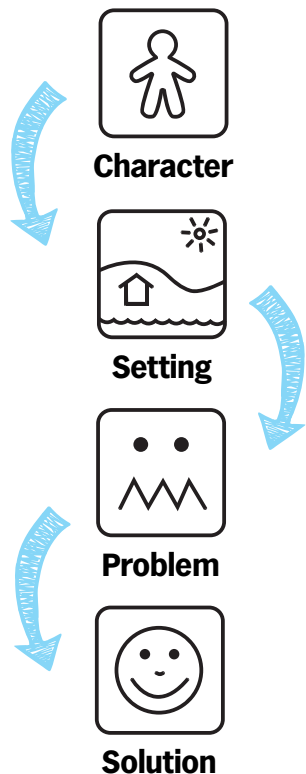
And we understand the heavy workload you face in school so we've made Tales Toolkit almost planning-free and super simple and fun to use.



# How does Tales Toolkit work?

## Story is a super powerful learning gizmo

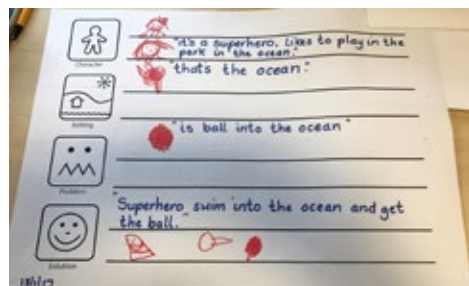
Tales Toolkit provides interactive, child-led resources all using easy to remember symbols to represent story structure.



Our kits give children the independence to create and write stories around their interests using anything they have to hand: old sock, conker, popular culture character or favourite toy!

These are provided with online training for teachers and on-going support to ensure maximum impact is made across many areas of learning.

Our training will help you make Tales Toolkit relevant to your children and community using props available in your setting. Making links to topics, core books and incorporating song, mark making, phonics, maths and more.



“ There are so many benefits from using Tales Toolkit...children will become confident story tellers and efficient problem solvers. ”

Over time children's communication, social skills and creativity develop and they start to use open ended items, extending their ideas creating stories with anything, anywhere.

And all with little or no planning. Just pick up the kit and see where the stories lead.

“ Really impressed with how fast the children picked up the concept. ”



How will  
it affect  
children in  
my school?



## Communication and Language

### 'Fun makes the learning stick'

Tales Toolkit provides a supportive environment for reluctant talkers, children with EAL and those with low levels of language. Stories can be created using only a few words, a child's home language or actions, signing and mark making. Over time you will see an increase in the vocabulary and confidence of your children.

In initial trial schools, those using Tales Toolkit for one term saw an additional 24% progress made in Communication and Language.

#### **This was the first story from a Nursery Child**

*"A bear going to the treasure hunt.*

*A bear and a turtle, ninja turtle, the Ninja turtles book."*

#### **This was his story after 10 weeks**

*"A fish playing in the sand making a sand castle. There's a problem. Elsa. She take the fish and sand away to a cage and put them in there. One day theres a solution. A fox. He took Elsa away and put the fish and sand back and he play in the sand. The end.*

“ It has given greater confidence to EAL children who were previously reluctant speakers. ”

“ Lots of children come into school with low levels of language and I've seen huge improvements in their language through the Tales Toolkit sessions. ”





# Personal, Social, Emotional Development (PSED)

**We believe it's not a race.**

**Children learn at their own pace.**

Tales Toolkit works at the child's pace, builds confidence, develops empathy and nurtures creative problem solving. It also helps children move away from violence when solving problems.

Once familiar with the story structure, children use this in their play to solve real life problems.

Tales Toolkit is so effective that it has been chosen by the **Think Equal** campaign who will be using our resources as part of their curriculum in 18 countries. The campaign aims to 'use social and emotional learning to empower change through education'.



“ They have the concept now that no matter what you face in life, let's find the solution and sort it out. That's been amazing. ”



“ Our children are more confident to have a go... they are applying the problem/solution aspects to their everyday lives. ”



# Literacy

## Light the lust for learning.

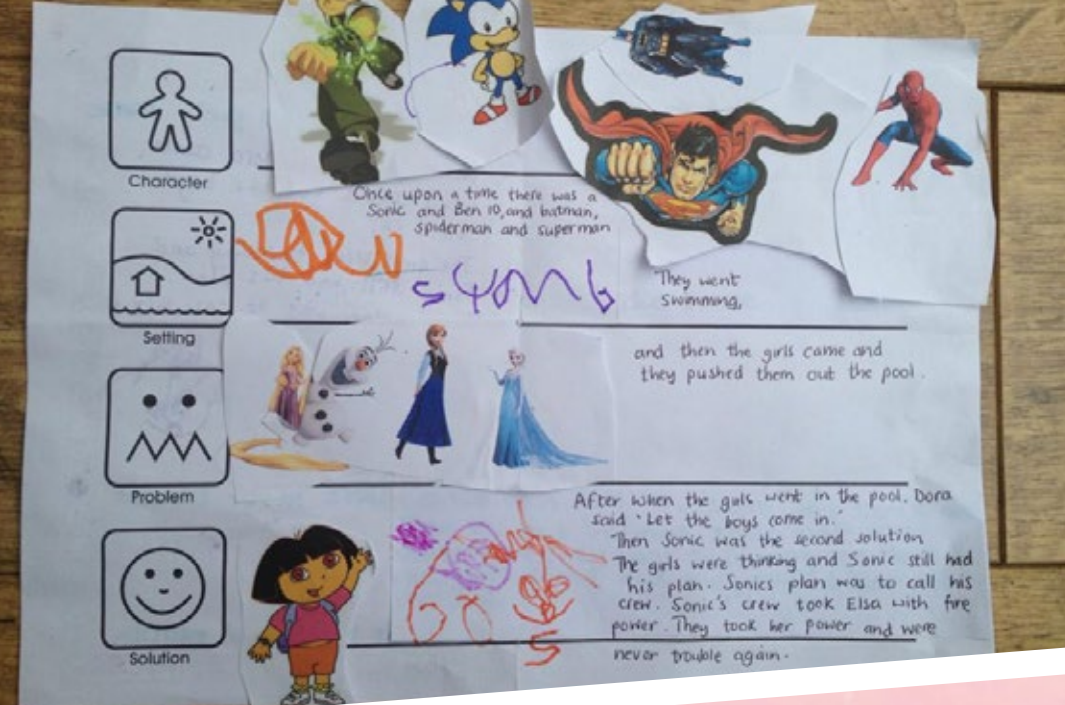
Tales Toolkit stories are interactive, fun and led by the children. This leads to high levels of engagement, attention and a passion for story with children eager to tell, retell and write their own stories.

The symbolic and role play the children use when creating Tales Toolkit stories create the foundations for later literacy.

Our online films train teachers to include early phonics in storytelling and make links with core books.

Our writing resources help children move from large, messy mark making stories to longer story writing.

“Massive change in confidence and children’s willingness to take part in their own mark making Tales Toolkit activities, especially from those who don’t usually choose to mark make.”



“We have had amazing results with children improving their writing skills, especially boys.”

“Even at story time using a book, children are saying ‘That’s the character’.”







# Creativity

## Imagination, a mind-set for creation

Children follow their interests to create imaginative stories full of original ideas.

As children become more sophisticated in their storytelling, they move away from obvious props – such as a bear, Frozen's Elsa and magic wands – to symbolic props, such as leaves and stones and soon they can create stories anywhere with anything. Representational play becomes more complex as children use the framework provided by Tales Toolkit. This symbolic play is key for later literacy.

Stories move at a fast pace, keeping the children motivated and innovating all the time and as they learn there are no wrong answers their ideas become more creative.

In initial trial schools, those using Tales Toolkit for one term saw an additional 34% progress made in Expressive Art and Design.

“ We think it's a really powerful approach to boosting imaginative play. ”

**Dr Julian Grenier**

“

We've seen a huge improvement in the children's imagination and creativity.

”





# Special educational needs and disability (SEND)

## Adapting to the needs of original individuals

The symbols and structure provide children with a 'safe' framework for interaction with other adults and children as well as taking advantage of any interests or fixations (dinosaurs, trains).

This clear structure helps children with SEND develop their creativity and encourages imaginative role play, helping them access the play of their friends.

The physical and tactile resources encourage engagement and focus. It's easy to incorporate song and dovetails with use of Makaton. Tales Toolkit symbols can be used along with PECs.

In one school, children with SEND made 30% additional progress in PSED to their non-SEND peers in the one term of using Tales Toolkit.

“ For special needs children, a big problem can seem unsolvable so to have this routine structure so they know there's a problem but there's also a solution and we can work it out together... they've really latched onto that. ” **Assessment Centre Teacher**



“ For children with SEND participating in imaginative activities is very difficult. The structure of the four bags, they adapt their imagination within that, they realise the ideas come from them. ”

**Assessment Centre Teacher**





## Two year olds

### **The littlest of people have the biggest potential**

Tales Toolkit has been used successfully with children as young as two years old.

Group stories can be very interactive using large props and puppets, song and sound and lots of tactile materials.

Even the youngest children who are unable to read can tell and retell stories from our resources which use symbols and pictures to support storytelling.

“ For the two year olds, it taps into every area of development - communication, PSED, maths, you can make your own resources, go with the child's interest. It's about the individual unique child and having fun through storytelling. ”

“  
I've seen a big difference for the two year olds with low listening and attention. Even for those children not using language the difference in their listening and concentration through using Tales Toolkit is amazing.  
”





TeachFirst  
**INNOVATION**  
PARTNER 2015/2016



## Pupil Premium

### Give them play to pave the way

We won the Teach First Innovation award 2015/16 for our ability to make a difference to children from low income families.

Tales Toolkit develops quality interactions that for many children are lacking at home. These lead to improvements in many areas of learning; communication and language, social skills, creativity, literacy and more. We know that every child eligible for Pupil Premium has different interests, strengths and needs. Tales Toolkit works across the curriculum catering for the individual children you work with.

In early years, play is vital. Interventions can be tricky to implement as it's key that children aren't taken away from play with their friends.

Tales Toolkit is easily differentiated so that all children can access our resources and stories. This leads to children at very different levels working together, learning from each other without being taken away from vital play.

In one school, children eligible for EYPP made an additional 35% of progress in speaking, and an additional 20% progress in Literacy, compared to Non EYPP during the term when using Tales Toolkit.



“

Rarely do I get to see ideas as lively as Tales Toolkit. Bringing together such simple tools and ideas, at a stage of learning that we know is crucial for shaping children's outlook and development. I believe that Tales Toolkit will provide the biggest and most crucial difference.

”

**Brett Wigdortz,**  
Founder and CEO of Teach First





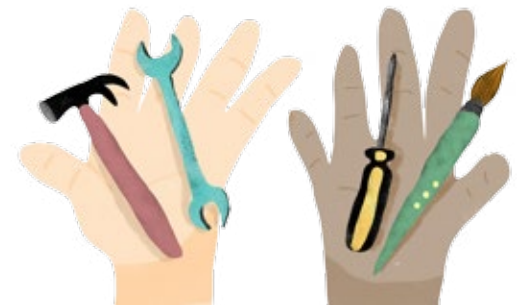
# How do we establish Tales Toolkit in our school?

## Online Training

When we piloted Tales Toolkit we were surprised to find that online training was more successful than face-to-face training.

We did some research to find out why.

- All members of staff receive the training direct from our founder Kate rather than one person attending the training and then cascading learning.
- Discussions and group tasks focus on the needs of your setting.
- The participatory nature of the sessions fosters team building as staff learn from each other.
- Training is delivered over time with tasks between each session for staff to complete. This makes training more manageable to implement and more effective.
- The films are yours for a year so training can be re-watched time and time again.



“ The obvious expertise and knowledge is reflected within the training. The resources and group participation aspect of the training were very well thought out. ”

“ The group aspect of the training was inspirational for me and I was able to share ideas and gain new ideas from my colleagues. All in all, I was very impressed. ”



# What does the training cover?

## Training is delivered in 5 x 50minute films.

We made them 50 minutes long to fit into a staff meeting. This means you can get together as a team with no additional supply costs! Training is delivered over time, giving staff time to embed each stage.

Sessions are led by Kate and include interviews with experts, teachers using Tales Toolkit, footage of the children using the resources, and activities for you to do as a team



## session one

An important session where we discuss providing children with quality interactions. This session sets you up with tips to improve interactions in your setting and gives background information to support the rest of the training.

## session two

Learn how to use our big bags to tell group stories developing communication, creativity and social skills.

## session three

Learn how to use the rest of the Tales Toolkit resources, encouraging children to become independent storytellers, covering the whole curriculum, and making links with core books and projects.

## session four

Learn how to use Tales Toolkit resources to develop muscles for writing. All of the Tales Toolkit writing resources are introduced during this session.

## session five

Take time to reflect on best practise and consider how best to communicate to Ofsted the benefits of Tales Toolkit.



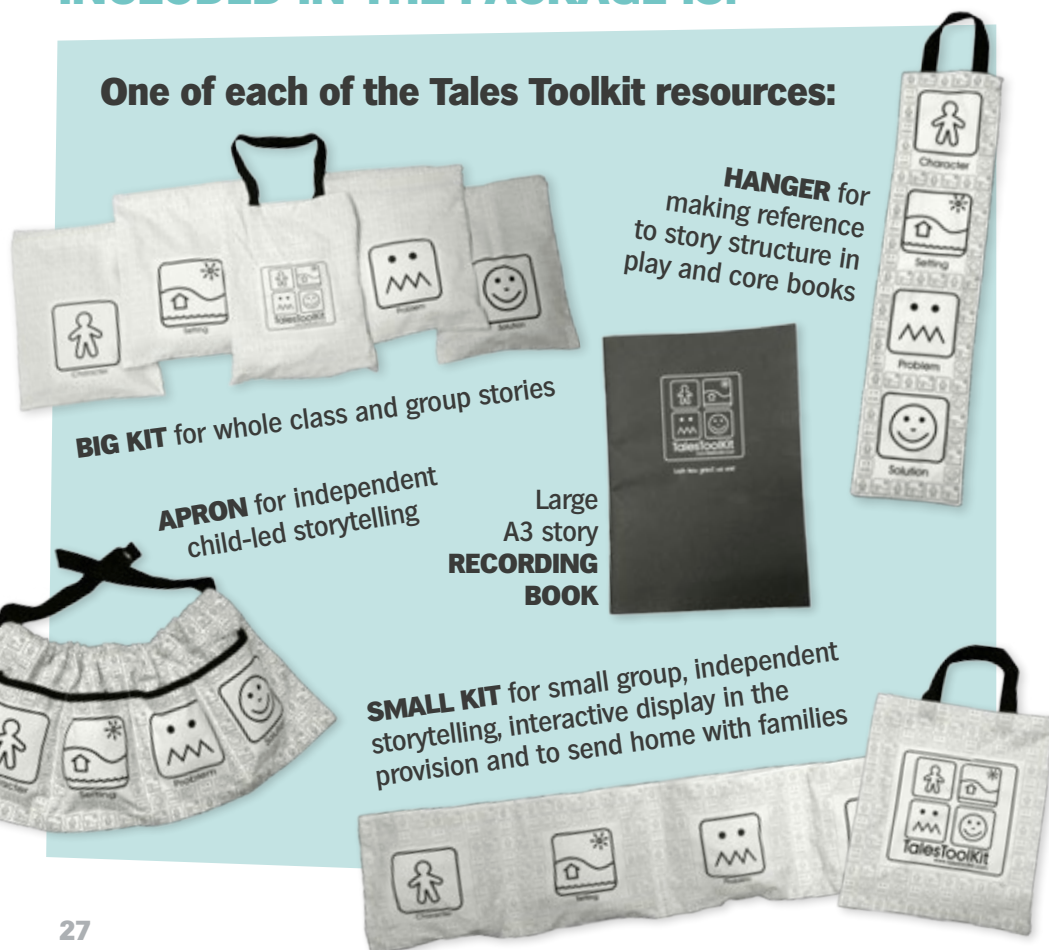
# What's included in the member's pack?

## Forming a family is the way forward

Our resources have huge potential so it's important we train your team properly to ensure the most impact is made. When you sign up for Tales Toolkit you become part of our family with access to ongoing training and support.

## INCLUDED IN THE PACKAGE IS:

### One of each of the Tales Toolkit resources:



## 5 x 50 minute online training films

These are run as staff meetings. Just press play. These include activities, interviews with experts and footage of the children using the kit.



### Forum

Where you can talk to us and other teachers using Tales Toolkit



### Downloadable resources

Including all of our writing resources and planning examples

### Research

Links to further research and reading



### Webinars

On different topics around your needs

We also have a Tales Toolkit shop where you can buy additional resources.

# How much does it cost?

After a lot of thought and consultation with schools and experts we decided the price for a Tales Toolkit package, which includes all of our kit, access to the online training and community of teachers and other resources is **£800**.

- Access to training, webinars and support for a full year
- Train all of the staff in your setting (with no supply costs)
- Build relationships with other schools using Tales Toolkit
- Everything you need to get going straightaway.

We continually take on your feedback to adapt and improve our training, adding additional resources to address questions and areas of need from our members.

We know that the pot of money is often very small. Tales Toolkit impacts many areas of learning and schools have funded our training from different budgets including staff training, early years, pupil premium, literacy and personal, social and emotional development. By taking a little bit from different pots the training is more affordable for smaller settings.



“ The staff have been so inspired by the training sessions so far. In the days leading up to it people actual say to me “It’s Tales Toolkit training next week ... can’t wait” - how many staff meetings get that kind of response!!! ”







# Research

**Goldsmiths**  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Goldsmiths University are running a study over the next two years to measure the impact of Tales Toolkit on children's communication and language, social skills, literacy and problem solving.

The research has a focus on early years and involves:

15

SCHOOLS

64

TEACHERS

1,440

CHILDREN

2-7

AGE OF CHILDREN

The first report is due this summer.

“ Tales Toolkit provides children with the opportunity to think about all kinds of problematic situations, and solutions in an open and discussive way. Children are encouraged to think about the emotional and social consequences of their suggestions, all while having a good giggle. ”

**Dr Alice Jones Bartoli. Senior Lecturer and Director of School and Family Studies, Goldsmiths University**

# Frequently asked questions

## Will this work alongside 'Talk for writing'?

Yes! We have a number of schools using Tales Toolkit alongside 'Talk for writing.' Feedback is that Tales Toolkit is fast paced and gets the children telling lots of stories, developing their imagination, supporting the innovation stage and the Tales Toolkit clear structure and symbols in early years are invaluable with storytelling.

## Can it be used in KS1?

We have three schools currently trialling Tales Toolkit in KS1. We say to schools that Tales Toolkit is effective and the training will give you all the information you need to get things going. However, keep in mind some of the information and terminology we use is specifically aimed at the early years.

## What do I need to do to deliver training?

We recommend schools nominate a Tales Toolkit facilitator responsible for running the training sessions. We have information online especially for them. Their job is to allocate groups and provide all the handouts and resources needed. Other than this they just press play and enjoy the training with the team. We recommend someone in a leadership role is the facilitator as it is informative for them to listen to the different groups and gain an idea of staff understanding.

## Can families be involved?

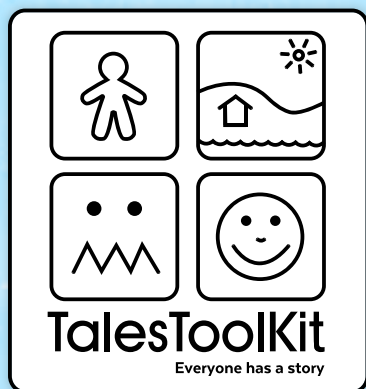
We have a number of schools successfully using Tales Toolkit to engage with families particularly with our early mark making resources. These have proved very popular and can be used in the child's home language.

## Is the training for teachers?

We've created the training so it suits staff at all different levels. We've had feedback that for staff with less experience the training is very supportive and gives them a lot of background information. And for more experienced practitioners, there is still a lot to learn, they can extend the use of Tales Toolkit to suit their setting and children and they gain a lot of information from the additional research. Our lessons are simple, easy to follow and lead to consistency in staff practise.







Find out more  
**[www.talestoolkit.com](http://www.talestoolkit.com)**

Email us for a chat  
**[info@talestoolkit.com](mailto:info@talestoolkit.com)**



“

A resource that enables children to articulate the stories that matter to them in a way that can be shared and understood is definitely worth having.

Tales Toolkit is such a resource, giving children a simple but highly effective means of exploring, creating and telling the stories that are important to them.

”

**ALISTAIR BRYCE CLEGG**