

Script of the film "Bag Books – Who We Are"
www.bagbooks.org

Bernard Tagliavini, Storyteller

Bag Books is a national charity which began life in 1993. It produces multi-sensory stories for children and young people with Severe and Profound & Multiple Learning Disabilities.

Dean Casswell, Chief Executive

People with Profound & Multiple Learning Disabilities can't enjoy a traditional bound story book. Even if they had pictures in, the pictures would be meaningless. You have to involve people in the story.

Bernard Tagliavini, Storyteller

Bag Books are not like ordinary books. Each sentence of the story is matched with a sensory event or specially selected object which listeners are helped to access hand-over-hand.

Nina Martinez, Storyteller

It's a sensory world for them so there's things for them to see, things for them to touch, things for them to smell.

Dean Casswell, Chief Executive

There are certain actions and it draws you into that story and you can see that there is anticipation as that item goes around the group whoever is last in line in there looking and thinking "wow it's me next".

Nina Martinez, Storyteller

To see a child react to a page in a way that they've never reacted before is amazing. It's just phenomenal. That is it may be something minor – they may have blinked, they may have anticipated a page – but that is huge progress for them; a huge step forward for them.

Bernard Tagliavini, Storyteller

In addition to producing multi-sensory books, Bag Books provides storytelling sessions in schools, libraries and adult day centres throughout the UK. We also train parents, carers, teachers and librarians in multi-sensory storytelling.

Nina Martinez, Storyteller

I do love telling Bag Books. I love the whole ethos behind the charity of Bag Books - the people they reach out to. The satisfaction that I get after delivering a good Bag Books session is phenomenal.

Bernard Tagliavini, Storyteller

All of the books are handmade to order in our workshop by a team of skilled craft artists. Each book contains an imaginative and eclectic range of materials and items, all designed to engage and stimulate the key senses. Bag Books is fortunate to have a talented and dedicated team of staff and volunteers to create the stories. It takes on average 8 hours to make one single book.

Nina Martinez, Storyteller

The time, the effort that goes into making these Bag Books is immense. Where real item can be used they are used – they're not pictures of something they are the items themselves. So certainly young people with Autism can associate with them. I wouldn't work with the dedication that I work with the charity if I didn't believe in it and I do, I believe in it strongly.

Dean Casswell, Chief Executive

I just love this job. It's fantastic. Bag Books is a great charity.

Nina Martinez, Storyteller

For me personally it's, I don't know, it's magic, it's absolute magic.

Bernard Tagliavini, Storyteller

Bag Books is still the only organisation in the world publishing multi-sensory books for people with profound learning disabilities. The charity believes that everyone with such disabilities deserves the right to reach his or her potential. It's stories enable these special, but all too often excluded individuals, to learn, enjoy and communicate through the wonderful world of storytelling – just like anybody else.