

Bag Books brings joy to the lives of people with learning disabilities. Can you imagine a world without books in it? That is the reality for thousands of people with severe or profound & multiple learning disabilities; words on a page are meaningless and two dimensional pictures cannot be understood.

Bag Books was established in 1993 and is still the only organisation in the world publishing multi-sensory books for people with severe learning disabilities.

### Who we help

People with profound & multiple learning disabilities will usually have a maximum developmental age of 18 months whereas in people with severe learning disabilities the maximum developmental age will usually be 6 years. They will all have language delay; many will also have autism; and the majority will also have severe physical disabilities, such as cerebral palsy. Some will have lived with their disabilities from birth; others may have had an injury or illness (e.g. meningitis) which caused brain damage.

### How the books help

A Bag Books story is no ordinary book; it is unbound, its pages are A3 card and it comes in a box containing an array of objects to feel and move; things to smell and sounds to activate. Each sensory object is used by the participant, hand-over-hand with a storyteller, in a sequence carefully devised to tempt the interest and hold the attention. They develop motor skills, encourage communication and foster turn-taking.

### What we do

- Bag Books designs and creates a range of multi-sensory books. Over 1,000 are made every year and each book takes an average of seven hours to create.
- Bag Books delivers multi-sensory storytelling sessions in special schools, adult day centres, libraries and children's hospices via a team of experienced multi-sensory storytellers. Each year, over 5,000 people with learning disabilities take part in a Bag Books storytelling session across the UK.
- Bag Books trains others (parents, carers, librarians and teachers) in multi-sensory storytelling technique. Over 300 people take part in training each year.

Bag Books stories have been used in over 97% of all the UK's special schools catering for pupils with severe or profound & multiple learning disabilities. 86% of teachers in those schools said they used Bag Books at least weekly, including 36% who used them daily. They also judged that 98% of the children in their classes had benefitted from using Bag Books stories. In total, Bag Books multi-sensory stories reach an estimated 25,000 children and adults with severe learning disabilities each year.

*"All of the students really enjoyed the Bag Books experience. The story was lovely with lots of different sensory experiences which everyone enjoyed. The students were all very keen to reach out and touch the different props and objects shown to them. The students all watched the storyteller waiting to see what was going to happen next with big smiles on their faces. They also enjoyed watching each other's responses and we had some great communication from some students that don't always join in or speak out in groups. Overall, this was a great session. What a wonderful way to spend a Friday morning."* **Special Needs Teacher, Leicestershire.**

## Telling one of our stories - Kofi and the Magic Shaker



*Kofi lived in Africa where the weather was always warm.*



*"Phew it's very hot today" said Kofi and he went to sit under a coconut tree in the shade.*



*A strange looking spider with two large eyes crept down from the tree.*



*The spider whispered to Kofi and laughed, "I know a better way to cool down."*



*The spider ran back up the tree...*



*...and started shaking and shaking the branches.*



*Lots of beautiful birds flew out of the tree and swirled around Kofi.*



*And as the birds flapped their wings, Kofi felt a nice breeze all around his body.*

## Please can you help?

*"I want to give ...*

*... a donation by cheque of £ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to "Bag Books"*

*... even more by letting Bag Books claim 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 that I donate.  I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past four years, to Bag Books.*

*I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all of my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference."*

*Please inform us if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income.*

Name .....

Address .....

Town ..... Postcode .....

email ..... Telephone .....

Your details are safe with us. Bag Books will never share them. We would like to send you occasional updates about our work (usually two but a maximum of four per year).

Would you like to hear from us by email? Yes  No

Would you like to hear from us by post? Yes  No

**Please return to Bag Books, 1 Stewart's Court, 218-220 Stewart's Road, London SW8 4UB. Thank you.**

You can also donate by:

- **Credit Card, Debit Card or PayPal.** Click the "Donate Now" button on the top right of our website [www.bagbooks.org](http://www.bagbooks.org)
- **Text.** Text **BOOK33 £10** to 70070 to donate £10 to Bag Books (the system will also work with £1, £2, £3, £4 or £5 as well as £10)

Please contact us or look on our website [www.bagbooks.org](http://www.bagbooks.org) for details of how to donate via:

- **Payroll Giving**
- **Standing Order**
- **Leaving a Legacy**
- **Donating Shares**

However you decide to donate, your money will be put to good use. We receive no Government grants and are reliant on voluntary donations. You can also help by volunteering to help make books or by collecting objects to go in them - again, please contact us or look on our website for details.

### Awards

**Shortlisted:** "Société Générale Charity of the Year" - European Diversity Awards 2016

**Shortlisted:** "The Supporting Older People with Learning Disabilities (Brian Rix) Award"  
- National Learning Disability Awards 2014

**Highly Commended:** "Charity of the Year (under £1m)" - Charity Times Awards 2013

**Winner:** The Guardian Charity Awards 2010

**Winner:** "Everyday Impact Award" DSC Social Change Awards 2010



*Multi-sensory stories for people with learning disabilities*



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