

Discount for parents

We have introduced a discount for parents on our two most popular titles.

"Lost In London" is one of our "classic" style books and tells the story of Patch the dog who runs off. Rick and Sally look for him in well known places all over London before they find him amongst the roses in Hyde Park. The regular price is £40 but parents and carers of children with learning disabilities can purchase it for £30.



25% off

"The Captain's Hat" is an "At Home" style book and tells the story of Jordan whose mum takes him out for a boat trip the lake. Everything is going to plan until his mum starts rowing too fast, causing Jordan's hat to blow off into the water. The regular price is £15 but parents and carers of children with learning disabilities can purchase it for £10.



33% off

Whilst on the subject of parents, we are currently looking for a parent/carer of someone with SLD/PMLD to become a Trustee of the charity. For more information please see www.bagbooks.org/jobs.html

Storyline is published three times a year and is available in email and print versions. If you would like to change the format you receive in future please contact us. Similarly, please let us know if you'd rather not receive future editions.



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"Shall we launch this rocket?!" from the multi-sensory story "Museum Mystery" at London Zoo's "Special Children's Day".

myPuzzler

Bag Books has been adopted as the charity for the myPuzzler website. Subscribe to their website using the link tinyurl.com/bbpuzzles and we'll receive a 5% commission.

myPuzzler is a club for people who just love to play puzzles! Updated daily with fantastic new crosswords, sudoku, wordsearches and kriss kross puzzles, myPuzzler is powered by Puzzler, the trusted leading name in puzzle magazines, apps and products. The puzzles offer all the high-quality reputable fun associated with the Puzzler family on a safe and secure site. Members will be able to access these daily puzzles and exclusive member competitions, gaining the chance to win great prizes while they play.

With various membership options all priced at less than £1 a week, the myPuzzler club offers more puzzles than you can guzzle.

Storyline

July 2013

Multi-sensory stories for people with learning disabilities



Stories with adults

In January our Big Lottery Fund "Tall Stories" project began. The aim is to introduce multi-sensory storytelling to adult venues across England and train their staff to enable the storytelling to become a regular activity.

The practical training is split across three half-day sessions. Each venue taking part (mostly day centres or care homes) also get two of our books and our training pack as part of the project. In the first three months of the project 286 service users attended sessions, and 39 members of staff completed their training. We will be working with 18 venues each quarter over the three years that the project is funded for.



The Mixing Desk from our multi-sensory story "Band Rehearsal". A storyteller training session at Morley Tambllyn Lodge, Liskeard, Cornwall in May.

Storyteller Training

The grant from the Big Lottery Fund also enabled us to organise our first ever joint training session for our UK-wide team of Storytellers. Kindly hosted by Michael Tippett School in Lambeth, it was the first time most of our regional Storytellers had met each other and it was very helpful for them to observe each other's styles.



"Very enjoyable experience for myself and also for the listeners who took part. Really inspiring watching the reactions of the listeners. What a great concept of storytelling - would highly recommend." **Abbots Wood Day Centre, Shropshire.**

"This has been a great experience for me. I had never heard of sensory storytelling but after this experience I feel confident in telling stories. The trainer was amazing, full of sense of humour and makes you feel comfortable. Thank you for motivating people with learning disability." **Mayflower Centre, London.**

Storytelling in Museums

June saw the first in a series of storytelling days at museums and other public places as part of a new project. Our first day took place at the Science Museum, London and was attended by groups from Marlborough School, Sidcup and St. Giles School, Croydon.

Half of the funding is for London and will include visits to venues such as the Natural History Museum and Tate Modern. The other half of the funding is for the rest of the country, and will see us running sessions at places such as the Coventry Transport Museum and the Imperial War Museum North in Manchester.



Each school taking part will receive a copy of one of two specially commissioned museum-based stories. The first book is called "Museum Mystery" and tells the story of Mike who spots an old pocket watch at his Dad's work. There is a faint sticker on the back saying it belongs to a museum – but which one? His Dad takes him on a tour of museums to find out.

We hope that the new book will go on general sale later in the year.

Thanks

Thanks to the Milton Keynes Community Foundation for funding a series of storytelling sessions for adults with learning disabilities in the Milton Keynes area. The project was a huge success and we are very grateful to them for supporting our work.



Many thanks to our skilled volunteer Tony Robertson who constructed a cohort of legionnaires and a fleet of space shuttles in his garden shed for the new story.

Children's Hospices

May saw the start of our BBC Children In Need funded project with children's hospices. The project sees our storytellers running storytelling sessions in the hospices and each hospice taking part also receive two free multi-sensory books and a training DVD. Half term saw visits to: Rainbows, Loughborough; Bluebell Wood, Sheffield; Naomi House, Winchester; and Julia's House, Corfe Mullen, Dorset. Feedback from all the hospices has been excellent and we hope to work with them again in the future.

"The stories and resources were very interactive and were appropriate for all of the children using our service regardless of age or disability. The storyteller was fantastic with the children - he was very confident with them and was excellent at involving them using the props." Naomi House, Winchester.

In Your Area

The new www.bagbooks.org/inyourarea.html section of our website lists all the storytelling sessions that have taken place since January 2012 on a region by region basis and includes a summary of the feedback received.

London Zoo

The Bag Books team had a great weekend at London Zoo's "Special Children's Day" in May. Attended by over 4,000 families, the rain held off to ensure everyone had a fun filled weekend.

The Bag Books stand was packed the whole time with our 'Guess the name of the (giant) monkey' competition proving particularly popular. Congratulations to Laura-Jane Foley who correctly guessed that the monkey was called Louie.



"Louie" getting ready for his trip to the Zoo.

Thank you to everyone who came along to say "hello" – we hope you had as much fun as we did. Keep an eye on the London Zoo website <http://www.zsl.org/zsl-london-zoo> for the dates of Special Children's Day 2014 – we hope to see you there.



A friendly lion visits our stand.

Kidz Exhibition

We also had an exhibition stand at the Kidz South Exhibition in Reading in June. Organised by the charity Disabled Living, the event was attended by over 2,200 people. With over 120 exhibitors, it is one of the largest events totally dedicated to children with disabilities and special needs, their parents, carers and professionals who work with them. We hope to have a stand at the next exhibition which will be in Manchester on 21st November. For details see www.disabledliving.co.uk/kidz

It was fantastic for us to meet so many families, many of whom had never seen our books before. Thank you to everyone who came along and visited our stand.

2012 in figures

Storytelling

- 4,782 people with learning disabilities attended one of our storytelling sessions – just 2% off an all-time record.
- We launched a project visiting Children's Hospitals.

Training

- During the year we trained 363 people.

Book production

- We received more orders for books than ever before. We made 805 "classic" design books and 171 "At Home" books.
- Four new "classic" design books were launched.

Our reach

- Through our books and storytelling by the end of the year we had reached 84% of all the Special Schools in the UK catering for pupils with Severe or Profound & Multiple Learning Disabilities.
- In total, we estimate that we reached at least 19,000 people with stories during the year.