

“Talk Through Stories helps us build inspiring, planned story times for our children. Their love of stories and their growing vocabulary is so evident. They really have fun with the words.”

Story time plans for 54 picture books

Talk Through Stories (TTS) is perfect for four to six-year-old children; especially those who do not come from a language-rich home. The 54 units help children:

- Care about the characters and understand the story
- Practise and learn new words every week
- Love the story.

Soon, they will be able to read these books for themselves.

We spoke to Laura Sherling, the EYFS assistant principal and reading leader at Old Ford Primary in East London, part of the Paradigm Trust. All five primary schools in the trust teach TTS.

TTS success across our trust

The reading leader from one of the schools in our trust trialled TTS in Year 1 and was hooked. She shared film clips of TTS being taught in her school during network meetings. We decided to roll it out in Reception across the trust and watched the training films on the portal. We have since rolled it out in Nursery too.

Diving deep into stories

Story time is a special time of the day in our school. In Story week, we read the story every day and dive deeper into the characters, what they're doing and why. Far from finding it repetitive, the more we read the book, the more the children love the story and join in. They love activities like 'Quiz the Character'. We see them including the story in their play and in their writing too. It really gets children talking..



New words, every week

In Vocabulary week, we zoom in on eight words from the story. Our children don't all hear these words in everyday conversation. Words like: extraordinary, uncomfortable, swooping, miserable, hesitantly, problematic, wonderful, nervously.

The activities develop children's understanding of the words in everyday contexts. Books are so much more accessible to our children because we dive deeply into the words. One of the vocabulary words this week was 'beneath'. A child told me later in the day that something was beneath the table. It's so rewarding to witness.

35 minutes a day

We have chosen to devote 20 minutes each day to reading our TTS stories and 15 minutes for the vocabulary activities at a separate time.

Enthusiastic adults, engrossed children

Our children love the stories and teachers love reading them. There's a great range of books; *Where the Wild Are* and newer books like *Ravi's Roar* and *Ruby's Worry*. We've also written our own units as a team to share across the trust. Books linked to topics for example, or just books we love as a team.