

Talk With Tales For Children (TWiTCH)

Programme Summary

About TWiTCH

TWiTCH trains early years practitioners to use dialogic reading strategies alongside the daily shared reading of traditional tales to support children's language and communication skills. Using the traditional tales provided in the TWiTCH resource pack, practitioners will deliver a series of story cycles, each lasting three weeks, as part of regular story time.

The structure of the TWiTCH programme

The TWiTCH programme takes place in story time sessions within the setting with small groups.

Practitioners receive nine storybooks and related resources. You will use each story for three weeks (Week 1, 2, 3 etc.).

Week 1: Getting to know the story.

The first week is all about the children getting to know the story through daily reading and related activities such as predicting, describing characters, and sequencing. Opportunity to focus on target vocabulary

Practitioners are encouraged to continue to follow universal strategies for adult child interactions:

- Tune in (listen carefully) to what children say.
- Show genuine interest (giving attention to the child).
- Build on what the children say.
- Invite children to elaborate on their ideas.
- Give them time to respond.

Week 2: Developing language through critical thinking and reflection.

Practitioners extend the children's language and thinking through activities that relate to a 'big idea' or dilemma in the story using the rabbit puppet. The choice-based activities encourage the children to make a choice, give reasons, and reflect on their reasons using language. Following the Repeat, Check, Reason, Imagine (RCRI) approach:

REPEAT – Repeating back what children say giving clear models of language

CHECK – checking what the children say through repeating back and recognition.

REASON – supporting children to give reasons for their choices

IMAGINE – Asking ‘What if...?’ questions

Week 3 activities: Embedding the story in continuous provision and focused input.

In week 3, practitioner’s bring activities and resources into the learning environment to deepen the children’s engagement with the story. Practitioners can incorporate the enabling environment in week 1 and 2 where appropriate. This is also an opportunity to repeat activities from week 1 and 2 for children who may benefit from smaller groups or more focused help.

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Appendix 5 Overview of the TWITCH programme

Story	Big Idea	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
Cycle 1 Goldilocks and the Three Bears	Choices	Overview of story Characters Sequencing Listening to and enjoying Prediction	Exploring the big idea (Choices) Yes because/No because activity. Let’s talk about Goldilocks	Small worlds play Shared writing Block Play Oral storytelling
Cycle 2 Jack and the Beanstalk	Important/special things	Overview of story Characters Sequencing Listening to and enjoying Prediction	Exploring the big idea (Important/special things) Agree/Disagree activity Ordering Let’s talk about Jack	Small world play Shared writing Creative table - treasures Oral storytelling
Cycle 3 Three Billy Goats Gruff	Fairness	Overview of story Characters Sequencing Listening to and enjoying Prediction	Exploring the big idea (Fairness) Fair/Not Fair Let’s talk about the goats	Small world play Shared writing Block area - build a bridge Oral storytelling
Cycle 4 Little Red Riding Hood	Danger	Overview of story Characters Sequencing Listening to and enjoying Prediction	Exploring the big idea (Danger) Would you rather? Let’s talk about the wolf	Small world play Shared writing Make a picnic basket Oral storytelling
Cycle 5	Kindness	Overview of story Characters Sequencing	Exploring the big idea (Kindness) Kind/Not kind activity	Small world play Shared Writing Make a shoe to fit

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Setting involvement

Each setting will be supported by a named **TWITCH coach** for the duration of the year long programme.

The coach will deliver:

- Initial TWiTCH training for a min. of 2 practitioners (2 x 3hrs face to face or online)
- Up to three coaching visits across the year (online, face to face, emails etc).

Setting leaders will be asked to:

- Ensure all the staff who will be delivering TWiTCH attend the training (minimum 2 practitioners)
- Support staff to be able to carry out story cycles within the setting
- Appoint a TWiTCH Champion,

The **TWiTCH Champion** will:

- Attend online Champion training (2 hours)
- Attend two online network events over the year (2 x 30 minutes)
- Support their colleagues with implementation and evaluation activities

Commitment for settings involved in the programme

All settings involved will be asked to complete and sign a partnership agreement at the beginning of the programme. Settings will be asked to commit to a year long programme by:

- Taking part in pre and post programme impact and evaluation surveys
- Delivering 9 (min of 6) story cycles to groups of 3-4 yr olds following the core programme principles across the year
- Release a min. of two practitioners to attending training
- Identify a TWiTCH champion and release the champion to attend 2 x network meetings
- Liaise with the TWiTCH coach throughout the programme

Delivery years and programme timelines

Year 1 – 2026/2027

Year 2 – 2027/2028

Year 3 – 2028/2029

Example of programme delivery across an academic year:



Programme delivery areas

Programme delivery will take place across the UK within identified target areas. These areas are identified through a process of collaboration across locality partnerships in areas of high deprivation, addressing the language gap and inequalities for vulnerable families living within these areas.

Individual settings can express and register interest via the NLT TWiTCH [webpage](#). Expressions of interests will be collated and the programme offered out to as many settings as possible over the 3 year period

Local authorities, Stronger Practice Hubs and educational organisations wishing to be involved in the TWiTCH programme may contact Beth Devereux, Programme lead beth.devereux@literacytrust.org.uk or twitch@literacytrust.org.uk

Funding

The programme is funded for 3 years with aim to run three yearly programmes to a total of 240 settings. For settings involved in the programme will receive free:

- Training for practitioners and champions
- Support from a TWiTCH coach throughout the programme

- All resources to be able to carry out the TWiTCH story cycles which will include:
 - A set of traditional tale story books
 - A rabbit puppet
 - Story props
 - A range of materials to support delivery e.g. visual cue cards, story sequencing pictures
 - Practitioner handbook and guidance for each week

Cost to the setting

The programme is designed to be carried out within the setting environment so reduces impact on staffing and capacity to lead groups. However, Setting Managers/Headteachers will need to release staff for training events. TWiTCH coaches will work with settings to arrange accessible training to minimise impact on staff release time e.g. online or in house training for settings with larger staff numbers.