



Talk with Tales for Children (TWiTCHE) Project Settings Information Sheet


State-maintained, voluntary and PVI nurseries are being invited to take part in a funded professional development programme called **Talk with Tales for Children (TWiTCHE)**.

TWiTCHE Project Information


What is the TWiTCHE Project?

Talk with Tales for Children (TWiTCHE) trains practitioners on how to use story time as a daily opportunity for complex language interactions between children and adults. It also supports the use of teacher/child talk through language games to develop children's thinking and reasoning skills and the language to express complicated thoughts and ideas.

Through TWiTCHE training, practitioners learn how to use a clearly structured intervention that builds on familiar EY practice (Storytime and small group work) to improve the quality and quantity of adult-child interactions.

 During TWiTCHE you will learn practical strategies for helping ALL children in the classroom to build language and reasoning skills. The strategies can be easily woven into your Storytime slot. Each strategy is designed to engage and maintain the interest of the child, making language and literacy-learning a fun and natural part of their day. The programme is based on 9 story cycles, with each cycle lasting for 3 weeks.

- Week 1 - focuses on developing knowledge and understanding of the story through dialogic reading prompts.
- Week 2 - focus is on language reasoning games that are based on the story and is intended to develop children's language, enabling them to express complex ideas.
- Week 3: focus on children who may need additional input - set up continuous provision, retelling of the story etc. to consolidate learning and develop language.

 The programme will provide you with ample opportunities to practice each strategy with the children. Peer reflections will be facilitated by the setting's TWiTCHE champion and supported by your designated TWiTCHE coach.

Who is involved in the project?

This project is funded by the EEF and the [Department for Education's Early Years Recovery Programme](#) (EY SPH). The TWiTCHE programme has been developed by a team at Sheffield Hallam University. Sheffield Hallam University will deliver the training and support for settings taking part in this project. Staff from Sheffield Hallam University will also undertake a light-touch evaluation of the programme to look at how the programme is received and delivered across different settings, and the impact that practitioners feel TWiTCHE has provided.



What does the TWiTCH Programme involve?

The TWiTCH Programme

The training will start from **September 2024, running until July 2025**, and will be delivered by early years specialists from Sheffield Hallam University.

- A minimum of 3 practitioners will access a **TWiTCH practitioner introductory online session (1 x 30 minutes) and 2 in-house training workshops (2 x 3 hours), interspersed with 3 face-to-face and 3 virtual coaching visits** - where practitioners use videos of their interactions or are observed by the coach to review and plan for the next stages. TWiTCH Champions will attend a 2-hour online training session and 3 online 30-minute network events. In between the coaching visits, the TWiTCH Champion will support practitioners to undertake collaborative reflections about their ongoing engagement with TWiTCH.

All training described above is provided as part of this funded research project (the usual cost per setting would be around £3000). All settings will be compensated for taking project and backfill costs to enable staff to attend the training through a one-off payment of £175.

The Evaluation

All settings that agree to take part in the project will be asked to take part in the evaluation. Nursery practitioners working with the pre-school cohort will be asked to complete an online questionnaire at the end of the project.



Settings receiving the training will benefit from:

- A funded CPD opportunity
- Personalised coaching from early years experts
- An approach which enhances the everyday story time learning environment for every child in the setting, including children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs, those with or at risk of delay, second-language learners and typically developing children
- An opportunity to inform practice in a national evaluation of “what works” in early years
- All settings will be compensated for taking part in the project and backfill costs to enable staff to attend the training through a one-off payment of £175.



Which centres are eligible to take part?

We are looking to work with 15 early years settings across Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and the Humber. We would like to work with a range of setting types. The recruitment window closes on Friday 31st May 2024 (this may be sooner depending on availability).

To take part in the project, settings need to:

- Offer funded places for 3-to-4-year-olds in a setting (childminders are not eligible);
- Be located within one of the following Local Authorities:
 1. North Yorkshire
 2. East Riding & the Humber
 3. York

4. North Lincolnshire
 5. North-East Lincolnshire
 6. Lincolnshire
- Have at least three practitioners who are working with the 3-to-4-year-old preschool cohort;
 - Ensure that there is enough room on the premises to deliver Storytime;
 - Have the space and flexibility to offer story time to groups of 10 children;
 - Have onsite access to a computer with an internet connection, webcam and microphone in order to take part in online live meetings;
 - Provide time for staff working at the setting to support the delivery of the programme;
 - After the initial training, nominate a member of staff to act as the TWiTC Champion - to take part in the training and support of other colleagues with the delivery/evaluation requirements of the programme;
 - Not currently taking part in any other Early Years Stronger Practice Hub Early Years Professional Development programme. Such settings are excluded from taking part in this study, due to the overlapping elements of the programme with TWiTC.



For more information and to register for the programme:

For more information about the project please visit our website at [Talk With Tales for Children \(TWiTC\) | Sheffield Hallam University \(shu.ac.uk\)](#) or scan this QR code.



To register your interest in taking part in the project please complete the [TWiTC Expression of Interest Form](#) or scan this QR code.



If you have any further questions about the project, please email the TWiTC Team at Sheffield Hallam University via the TWiTC inbox at TWiTC@shu.ac.uk.