



Story Telling

Description	A creative approach to explore issue based topics. Stories can be used to describe personal experience, they can be autobiographical or fictional. Children may resolve the issue by exploring the ending to stories by producing a number of optional endings, which in turn can create discussion. Can be done in verbal or written format
Age Range	5+
Time	Can be done for one activity or over a period of time.
Cost	Paper, pens and pencils, or recorder. May also want to purchase/loan props or resources as a visual aid to work through the process. Could work with a professional writer to support the process.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Uses lots of skills –writing, planning, drawing - Produces a reference point to revisit - Can be focused to one child or as a group activity - There's options to how a story can start, develop and end, as well as the characters involved - Can produce very powerful messages about children and young people's experiences of services
Drawbacks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have to carefully handle sensitive topics, as it may evoke personal experiences - Children have different ability levels in relation to writing – may wish to consider using picture stories, puppets or figures as an alternative. - You need to consider issues around maintaining confidentiality/ anonymity. - You need to consider how you will process and use what you find.
Other Information	You can make story telling into a larger project combining it with other things such as video and photography as well as visual arts, drama and dance.
Contacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Library Service - 554282 - Community Artists
Example	A group of young people who have used mental health services worked alongside a professional writer, they told their stories of using services and then worked to combine these into a script which formed the basis for a short film. The film was used at conferences and in service planning to put forward young people views about services.