



## Reporting on the Story-Go-Round: Northern Ireland Project



*"Where could I hide him?"* from **CJ The Library Cat**.  
Storytelling in Rathcoole Library, Belfast.

**207 children** with learning disabilities took part in...

...**28 storytelling sessions** demonstrating best practice...

...hosted at **10 library venues** in communities throughout Northern Ireland...

...with **55 library staff trained** in multi-sensory storytelling.

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***Multi-sensory stories for people with learning disabilities***

# Background

**Bag Books exists to enhance the lives of children and adults with learning disabilities through the use of multi-sensory books.**

Our primary audience is people with severe learning disabilities (SLD – a developmental age of up to six years) or profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD – a developmental age below 18 months).

- We make around 1,000 multi-sensory books each year (each book is hand-made and on average takes around eight hours to produce).
- We provide storytelling sessions for children, young people and adults. In 2010, 4,061 people with learning disabilities took part in one of our 584 storytelling sessions.
- We offer training in multi-sensory storytelling to parents, carers, librarians and teachers. In 2010 we trained 991 people.

## Story-Go-Round: Northern Ireland Project Goal & Scope

The Story-Go-Round (SGR): Northern Ireland Project had the goal of **enriching the creative environment for children with profound intellectual and physical difficulties in Northern Ireland; providing a legacy of skills within the community**, which would offer a way for local communities to support the aesthetic development of these youngsters.

## Project Aims

The SGR: Northern Ireland Project aimed to:

1. **exemplify** multi-sensory storytelling, showing how it can provide a session of fun and learning for children with special needs in their local community libraries; and
2. **enable** local library staff to continue providing regular multi-sensory storytelling to these local children and their families, by training them to use multi-sensory books.

We also planned to provide the multi-sensory resources necessary to help the participants continue to offer multi-sensory storytelling within their own communities.



*“He ran back up the tree”*  
from **Kofi and the Magic Shaker.**

# Project Objectives

The Story-Go-Round: Northern Ireland Project's objectives were structured to meet its aims.

1. To **exemplify** multi-sensory storytelling, showing how it can provide a session of fun and learning for children with special needs in their local community libraries by
  - a) *recruiting a professional Trainer-Storyteller, and background checking him/her, in line with Bag Books' Child Protection procedures;*
  - b) *training the Trainer-Storyteller in how to deliver multi-sensory stories, how to handle children with additional needs safely, and how to give the children the most stimulating and rewarding experience possible;*
  - c) *providing ongoing support and monitoring to the Trainer-Storyteller, during the Tour, including site visits, telephone support and monthly performance reviews;*
  - d) *producing a leaflet for libraries, outlining the people and processes involved;*
  - e) *contacting Central Library Services in the target local authority areas, offering the service to them centrally before approaching individual libraries;*
  - f) *contacting libraries in the target local authority areas, offering the Tour to come to their library, without charge;*
  - g) *contacting local special schools, ensuring their involvement in the Project;*
  - h) *gathering and collating feedback from the Trainer-Storyteller and participants;*
  - i) *working closely with all stakeholders, to ensure that the greatest possible number of beneficiaries are reached; and*
  - j) *demonstrating accessible storytelling to those parents, carers, special school staff and librarians attending the storytelling sessions with the children.*
  
2. To **enable** local library staff to continue providing regular multi-sensory storytelling to these local children and their families, by training them to use multi-sensory books by
  - a) *providing training for librarians, in conjunction with the demonstrations, in how to safely, effectively and confidently tell multi-sensory stories;*
  - b) *offering follow-up training to other interested parties; and*
  - c) *producing a take-home leaflet for children's families, outlining how multi-sensory storytelling works in the context of local libraries.*



*“Pierre peeped into the clearing”*  
from **Snapped**.

## Achievement - General

We aimed to involve libraries and schools across Northern Ireland. The Tour began in Lisburn on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011 and concluded on 11<sup>th</sup> February in Dundonald. All sessions took place in a library as planned.

In the feedback from schools, 100% of the respondents said the children had enjoyed the sessions and 100% said they had benefited from them.

Of the trainees, 92% rated the quality of the training as “very good” and 8% as “good”.

## Performance against Aims

Aim 1 – To **exemplify** multi-sensory storytelling, showing how it can provide a session of fun and learning for children with special needs in their local community libraries.

1.a) *recruiting a professional Trainer-Storyteller, and background checking him/her*, in line with Bag Books’ Child Protection procedures

As with many of the previous tours, Barnard Tagliavini was our sole Trainer-Storyteller for the Northern Ireland Tour. In addition to Bag Books’ work, Bernard works on the Persula Foundation’s storytelling tours. All appropriate background checks were already in place for Bernard, as he was a seasoned storyteller, well-used to working with vulnerable audiences of many different types.

1.b) *training the Trainer-Storyteller* in how to deliver multi-sensory stories, how to handle children with additional needs safely, and how to give the children the most stimulating and rewarding experience possible

Bernard was experienced at conducting storytelling sessions and Multi-Sensory Storytelling Technique (MSST) training workshops.

1.c) *providing ongoing support and monitoring to the Trainer-Storyteller*, during the Tour, including site visits, telephone support and monthly performance reviews

Telephone contact was maintained with Bernard, with verbal reports adding to the reports provided on every session undertaken. As part of our regular feedback process, we requested that participants express their views of the sessions directly to Bag Books (i.e. not via the Trainer-Storyteller). No negative reports were received in relation to Bernard.

1.d) *producing a leaflet for libraries*, outlining the people and processes involved

As an original project aim, the idea of a specific leaflet for this purpose was set aside several Tours ago. We have worked instead on the basis of individually tailored letters, which have been very successful at informing and engaging library staff.

1.e) *contacting Central Library Services* in the target local authority areas, offering the service to them centrally before approaching individual libraries

We made contact with the appropriate person in the new centralised Libraries NI structure. We explained that our aim was to train library staff, leaving them confident to work with special needs youngsters; we would arrange everything with the schools (unless they had a pre-existing relationship); we would not charge!

Before the inception of the Story-Go-Round Project, libraries would often be keen for Bag Books to hold a “day of storytelling” for local youngsters, but they would simply leave us to get on with it! It remained a core principle of the Project that we would only offer the storytelling sessions if the library agreed to accept training. We did not demand that libraries commit to continue multi-sensory storytelling, although we made it clear that this was our ultimate goal.

1.f) *contacting libraries* in the target Local authority areas, offering the Tour to come to their library, without charge

Due to the new centralised Libraries NI structure, this was all handled by them which made it much easier for us.

1.g) *contacting local special schools*, ensuring their involvement in the Project

Our experienced Storytelling-Training Co-ordinator, Kate Blake, used resources such as the Special Education Directory and Google (especially the Google Maps service) to identify and approach appropriate special schools.

Kate finalised the plans for the Tour and sent out formal letters and information setting out full details.

1.h) *gathering and collating feedback* from the Trainer-Storyteller and participants

The Storyteller-Trainer completed a report for each session, outlining the number of children and adults attending, and additional information (appended to this Report). All host libraries and participant schools services were sent monitoring forms.

5 of the 10 libraries responded. This is around the same proportion as previous Tours.

9 of the 15 schools responded. This too is around the same proportion as previous Tours.

All attendees at training sessions were asked to complete a feedback form with standard questions. These responses are also appended to this Report.

1.i) *working closely with all stakeholders*, to ensure that the greatest possible number of beneficiaries are reached

During the Tour, 207 children enjoyed stories such as “The Uninvited Guests”, “Kofi and the Magic Shaker” and (of course a big favourite) “C.J. the Library Cat”.

Those benefiting from the training and the children who take part “on the day” certainly are beneficiaries; but key to the overall goal is that many more children’s lives will be enriched in the coming months and years by gaining more access to multi-sensory stories.

1.j) *demonstrating accessible storytelling* to those parents, carers, special school staff and librarians attending the storytelling sessions with the children

We held 28 storytelling demonstration sessions at 10 host libraries. 73 members of library staff, 114 members of school staff and 11 others observed the storytelling sessions.

Aim 2 – To **enable** local library staff to continue providing regular multi-sensory storytelling to these local children and their families, by training them to use books

During 10 training workshops, 55 library staff and 34 others (mainly school staff) were trained in the use of multi-sensory books.

The training package included an overview of the academic research on which the Multi-Sensory Storytelling Technique is based; working with children and young people with special needs; practical hints and tips for setting up storytelling sessions; and examples of how and why the books have the beneficial effect they do. There was, as part of each workshop, hands-on practice in using multi-sensory books with colleagues.



## Appendices

- I Tour Summary – Storytelling and Training
- II Trainer-Storytellers’ Session Reports
- III Libraries’ Feedback
- IV Schools’ Feedback
- V Training Session Participants’ Feedback

## Appendix I – Tour Summary – Storytelling

Date	School	Venue	No. of Sessions	No. of Children
31/01/2011	Parkview Special School, Lisburn	Lisburn City Library	3	22
01/02/2011	Ceara School, Lurgan	Lurgan Library	1	7
01/02/2011	St Anthony's Primary School, Craigavon	Lurgan Library	2	17
02/02/2011	Elmbrook Special School, Enniskillen	Enniskillen Library	2	13
02/02/2011	Erne Special School, Enniskillen	Enniskillen Library	1	6
03/02/2011	Foyle View School, Derry	Derry Central Library	2	15
04/02/2011	Rossmar Special School, Limavady	Limavady Library	3	22
07/02/2011	Loughan School, Ballymena	Ballymena Library	2	20
08/02/2011	Hill Croft Special School, Newtownabbey	Rathcoole Library, Newtownabbey	2	14
08/02/2011	Jordanstown School, Newtownabbey	Rathcoole Library, Newtownabbey	1	3
09/02/2011	Glenveagh Special School, Belfast	Finaghy Library	1	8
09/02/2011	Oakwood School and Assessment Centre, Belfast	Finaghy library	1	9
09/02/2011	St Gerard's Education Resource Centre, Belfast	Finaghy Library	1	7
10/02/2011	Donard Special School, Banbridge	Banbridge Library	3	23
11/02/2011	Tor Bank School, Dundonald	Dundonald Library	3	21
	<b>15 schools</b>	<b>10 libraries</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>207</b>

## Appendix I – Tour Summary – Training

Date	Venue	Library staff	Others
31/01/2011	Lisburn City Library	5	7
01/02/2011	Lurgan Library	4	0
02/02/2011	Enniskillen Library	4	3
03/02/2011	Derry Central Library	9	2
04/02/2011	Limavady Library	6	0
07/02/2011	Ballymena Library	4	9
08/02/2011	Rathcoole Library, Newtownabbey	4	0
09/02/2011	Finaghy Library	8	2
10/02/2011	Banbridge Library	7	5
11/02/2011	Dundonald Library	4	6
	<b>10 training sessions</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>34</b>

## Appendix II – Trainer-Storyteller’s Session Reports

Reports from Bernard Tagliavini.

Date	School	Comments
31/01/2011	Parkview Special School, Lisburn	No teachers present -only support staff. Delightful group - easy to work with and elicit good responses.
31/01/2011	Parkview Special School, Lisburn	Again no teachers. Slightly restless group, due largely to one boy crying and screaming loudly for the first 10 mins which unsettled the others. However, once he relaxed and settled in it was a lovely and responsive group.
31/01/2011	Parkview Special School, Lisburn	Only support staff - no teachers. Cheerful group. One autistic boy looked tense throughout but just towards the end relaxed and began to smile.
01/02/2011	Ceara School, Lurgan	Apart from 1 child asleep most of the session, all the children engaged well. Problems with a lack of window blinds in this activity room away from the main library - the children had to be moved 2 or 3 times to avoid the sunlight streaming in.
01/02/2011	St Anthony’s Primary School, Craigavon	Slightly chaotic group for the first few minutes but all settled well by the second story. Great feedback from both library and school staff. The group of children appeared to have very mild learning difficulties and were from a SEN unit of a nearby mainstream school.
01/02/2011	St Anthony’s Primary School, Craigavon	A really fun session, with the children getting enthusiastically involved - lots of laughter!
02/02/2011	Elmbrook Special School, Enniskillen	No librarians able to attend. A real shame as this was a terrific session with whole group very alert and keen to interact with the props. Fabulous responses.
02/02/2011	Elmbrook Special School, Enniskillen	Mostly autistic children who were keen to join in with the stories. One PMLD girl suddenly became hugely involved halfway through the session, having been previously completely passive and stony faced.
02/02/2011	Erne Special School, Enniskillen	One SLD girl was very tactile defensive for the first half of the session, but then began to gradually accept props offered to her and by the end was actually seeking them out and reaching for them A lovely session.
03/02/2011	Foyle View School, Derry	This session was filmed for the school. A pleasant and quite diverse group, though all had PMLD. In the middle of a busy library with lots of members of the public pausing to look in.
03/02/2011	Foyle View School, Derry	Due to several children being off sick/in hospital, the afternoon class was merged with those at this session - hence the extreme age range. Also due to a family of young children that joined us from the general public. Excellent opportunity for the librarians to observe the flexibility of Bag Books!
04/02/2011	Rossmar Special School, Limavady	2 extremely noisy children arrived screaming with this group. The staff were unable to pacify them for a good 15 - 20 mins, which unsettled the others. I felt that they should really have removed them from the group until they settled, but instead the staff continued to battle with them and wound them up further. Eventually they settled which allowed everyone to relax and enjoy the session. I was on the verge of suggesting that they walk the 2 children around the library or outside until they settled, but as this was the beginning of the first session I felt I might not have given a very positive impression.
04/02/2011	Rossmar Special School, Limavady	Nice, compliant group. A relief after the earlier session! Lots of smiles and interaction was easily obtained.
04/02/2011	Rossmar Special School, Limavady	A good session to finish the week off with. As 2 or 3 of them had very good language, they even joined in making suggestions of what should happen next in the story. A very relaxed and amusing session.

07/02/2011	Loughan School, Ballymena	A lively fun group, but well behaved and responsive. The librarian appeared to fall in love with the children, who do not use this library. One very small girl was very keen and chatty and wanted to be involved in everything and introduce me to all the other children. She was so effervescent that one needed to take care not to allow the more withdrawn children from missing opportunities within the stories. A lovely session. (The school have some Bag Books but I got the impression they are rarely used).
07/02/2011	Loughan School, Ballymena	A really interesting and mixed group, which included a fully able bodied girl with severe autism, a VI boy in a wheelchair with very good language and cognitive skills and a Down syndrome boy who was totally deaf. They all responded appropriately in their own way and enjoyed the session. The group included the afternoon group as they are not able to come now after lunch. Several members of the public paused to look in to see what was happening.
08/02/2011	Hill Croft Special School, Newtownabbey	An all boys group, mostly with varying degrees of autism. 1 boy was taken out of the room as he was so restless and allowed to explore the library, but the others responded brilliantly.
08/02/2011	Hill Croft Special School, Newtownabbey	A group with a big age variation and abilities within the PMLD bracket. Again, a disruptive girl and boy were taken out half way through the session and allowed to explore the library. In the calm that followed the others responded wonderfully and became enthusiastically engaged with the stories.
08/02/2011	Jordanstown School, Newtownabbey	What a great session! One of the best so far on this Tour. 3 hugely enthusiastic, well behaved and delightful young girls who after 4 stories just wanted more. Each session today has been a vastly different type of audience with completely different disabilities. Wonderful.
09/02/2011	Glenveagh Special School, Belfast	2 or 3 very vocal children but they all engaged well with the stories. Teachers and staff very impressed with the response from the children.
09/02/2011	Oakwood School and Assessment Centre, Belfast	All 9 children appeared to be autistic to a lesser or greater degree and were quite restless for the first 10 mins. However, after that, they became increasingly focused and responded very well to the props being presented to them. The school staff were amazed at the level of concentration and for a full 40 mins.
09/02/2011	St Gerard's Education Resource Centre, Belfast	Although very enthusiastic and great fun, the group was occasionally over boisterous and it took effort to keep full control of the session. However, the children and the teacher were full of praise for the stories.
10/02/2011	Donard Special School, Banbridge	Lively and friendly little group. Warmed very rapidly to the idea of getting involved with the stories. Very positive response from the school staff.
10/02/2011	Donard Special School, Banbridge	From early on in the session the school staff were amazed to see such positive reactions and interactions from "difficult" children. Huge fun to work with this group - they responded to everything.
10/02/2011	Donard Special School, Banbridge	Could have been a SLD group when they first came in, but their language ability and coherent questions led me to believe that they were more likely to be MLD. Brilliant co-operation and interaction from all of them.
11/02/2011	Tor Bank School, Dundonald	A very sweet and cheerful little group. Lots of smiles and giggles. We were right in the middle of the library with the public all around us - a great advert for Bag Books and the use of the library by special needs groups.
11/02/2011	Tor Bank School, Dundonald	Some confusion by the school: a group of older PMLD children arrived then 3 much younger children were walked in who were of a significantly higher ability about 15 minutes after we had started. But everyone got stuck into the stories and we had an excellent session.
11/02/2011	Tor Bank School, Dundonald	A rather sleepy group which really only came to life about two thirds of the way through the session. However, all went well and we enjoyed ourselves.

## Appendix III – Libraries' Feedback

Date	Library	What was your experience of the SGR event? What was good? What was not good?	What has been your/colleagues' experience of children with SEN before today? Is library an appropriate place for them? Why?	What would increase the likelihood of your library offering multi-sensory storytelling for children with SEN?	Is there anything else you would like to tell us?
31/01/2011	Lisburn City Library	<p>Storytelling sessions were excellent. Particularly with 3 different age groups. New experience for staff. They were amazed at the interaction between the storyteller and the children. Seminar interesting but would have been more useful to staff if there were immediate plans to hold multi-sensory storytelling sessions in libraries.</p>	<p>Staff have experience of children with SEN visiting library with family/carers. Library is totally appropriate to visit. Libraries support lifelong learning for ALL children in a bright, welcoming, fun and hopefully stimulating environment. Children who react badly to noise/crowds can visit the library at a quieter time. We have a severely autistic child who visits the library weekly, in the evening, with his carer, when he is more comfortable.</p>	<p>This would be a decision for the children's learning team/manager.</p>	<p>Both the library staff and children attending the storytelling sessions at Lisburn City Library gained a lot from the experience.</p>
01/02/2011	Lurgan Library	<p>Excellent. Teachers, helpers, staff and kids who attended the event had a fantastic storytelling session. Staff who were at the workshop thoroughly enjoyed it. Bernard was wonderful with the children and his props were excellent. Hopefully we will be able to have this event again in our library.</p>	<p>Some of the staff have never dealt with kids with SEN and felt that after the training they would be more willing to participate in library events for kids with SEN. We do have regular contact with one school who arrange to come for storytimes but we don't have any props like Bernard. Our library is a suitable place as we have disabled access and staff willing to help the children have an enjoyable experience through visiting our library and listening to stories, but we would need some props suitable for SEN kids. We do not go out to any school as we are not allowed to do this as this is the job of the schools' library service.</p>	<p>Having properly trained staff and also props.</p>	<p>While we do have a few staff who would be willing to run these storytimes there are other staff who would not feel confident or comfortable to do so.</p>

07/02/2011	Ballymena Library	It was excellent and inspiring.	As a family I believe the library to be perfect, however I feel library frontline staff do not have the skills or full training to deliver sessions, however this could be carried out by the specialist teams and professional staff (learning team).	If this was carried out by the Learning Officers and not frontline staff	
08/02/2011	Rathcoole Library, Newtownabbey	All staff felt the event was very good and the training well structured.	We used to have a few classes a week in from a special school until they moved to a new location. Some staff have read stories to a children's hospice on a monthly basis. The library is a great space with disability access.	If we were able to purchase some of the resources i.e. Bag Books it would be easier for staff to structure a session for the children.	Staff would need to feel comfortable delivering a session which might come with practice.
09/02/2011	Finaghy Library	It was a great experience seeing Bernard in action with the storyboards.	We have a lot of experience as a local special school visits our library on a weekly basis. The library is an appropriate place for them as long as the library is not too busy. Sometimes we find it hard to hold the children's attention with the books that we have.	If Libraries NI purchased plenty of packs from yourselves so that we could carry out the sessions	

**Quantitative Qs&As:**

What was your library's overall experience of Story-Go-Round?		
v. poor	0	0%
poor	0	0%
average	0	0%
good	0	0%
<b>v. good</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100%</b>

What was your library's overall experience of the running of the event on the day?		
v. poor	0	0%
poor	0	0%
average	0	0%
good	0	0%
<b>v. good</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100%</b>

What was your library's overall experience of Bag Books' organisation?		
v. poor	0	0%
poor	0	0%
average	0	0%
good	2	40%
<b>v. good</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>60%</b>

Your library's active relationship with your local special school		
v. poor	1	20%
poor	1	20%
<b>average</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>40%</b>
good	0	0%
v. good	1	20%

What was your library's overall experience of the information you received before the event?		
v. poor	0	0%
poor	0	0%
average	0	0%
good	2	40%
<b>v. good</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>60%</b>

How many visits by children with SEN to your local library with school?		
<1/term	3	60%
1/term	0	0%
2-5/term	1	20%
6-10/term	0	0%
>10/term	1	20%

How many visits by a child with SEN to your library with family?		
<1/term	1	20%
1/term	0	0%
2-5/term	1	20%
6-10/term	1	20%
>10/term	2	40%

How many visits by your library to your local special school?		
<1/term	5	100%
1/term	0	0%
2-5/term	0	0%
6-10/term	0	0%
>10/term	0	0%

Would you be confident and happy to offer multi-sensory storytelling... as things stand now?		
def. no	0	0%
prob. no	2	40%
possibly	2	40%
prob. yes	1	20%
def. yes	0	0%

...with more training?		
def. no	0	0%
prob. no	1	20%
possibly	1	20%
prob. yes	3	60%
def. yes	0	0%

...with other support?		
def. no	0	0%
prob. no	1	20%
possibly	1	20%
prob. yes	2	40%
def. yes	1	20%

What would be an appropriate frequency for such sessions?		
<1/term	1	20%
1/term	2	40%
2-5/term	1	20%
6-10/term	1	20%
>10/term	0	0%

## Appendix IV – Schools' Feedback

Date	School	What was your / colleagues' experience of the SGR event? What was good? What was not?	What were the best and worst aspects of the children's experience?	How could the sessions be changed to better address the needs of your pupils?	Anything else?
01/02/2011	Ceara School, Lurgan	Staff and children both enjoyed the event. The setting was good, great for our kids to get out of school for a while. The narrator interacted really well with our kids.	All good.	Sessions at school could benefit more pupils as staffing in outings always causes problem (pushing wheelchairs or taking pupils with complex medical needs).	How can find out about more sessions in our local area?
01/02/2011	St. Anthony's Primary School, Craigavon	Stories were well demonstrated and enjoyable for the children.	The best aspect of the experience was the vast range of sensory resources and the enthusiasm and friendliness of the storyteller.	N/A	N/A
02/02/2011	Elmbrook Special School, Enniskillen	Excellent presentation on day. Delivery fantastic - a great way with the children.	Not at present (Is library appropriate place). I wish the local library would put on things like this more often for special schools. The whole activity was fantastic. Children loved it.	Perfect as it was.	The man that did the storytelling in Enniskillen Library was fabulous. Well done!
02/02/2011	Erne Special School, Enniskillen	We thought the storytelling and resources were brilliant.	The storytelling was probably best in a separate room (answer to whether library should be open). We thought everything about the session was really good. The children loved it and really got involved in the story with the clever use of the resources.	The storytelling was lovely and exciting for the children and would stimulate and would stimulate language. Is there a children's storybook for each story that they could read at a later time by themselves?	
04/02/2011	Rossmar Special School, Limavady	Excellent.	Best: Sensory integration. How story was told.	Work with teaching staff in identifying how story might be used/integrated with IEP/child's targets or learning needs.	Excellent storyteller.

07/02/2011	Loughan School, Ballymena	Excellent storyteller, he interacted well with the pupils, taking into account their different needs.	Best: The storyteller. Excellent stories. Worst: Too short a session!	Suited us very well, good area used in library. Small group for session and good stories.	Bag Books are an excellent resource, well suited to our pupils and we have a good selection in school. Would be good if library had some we could borrow.
08/02/2011	Hill Croft Special School, Newtownabbey	We thought that it was brilliant - especially the 4 PMLD children in the class. The 3 pupils who didn't really settle have little attention span for anything, so was nothing to do with the session. Very enjoyable, relevant and stimulating.	Best: the whole sensory aspect of the experience - all the touches, sounds etc. The children loved having their turn at the stimuli. Nothing bad to say.	I think they address their needs very well as it is!	It would be great to have an idea of what goes into each sack so that we could possibly make some in school. We are ordering a couple based on our experience yesterday but don't have enough money to buy a lot!
08/02/2011	Hill Croft Special School, Newtownabbey	Storyteller was animated and very understanding of the needs of our children. Everyone was spoken to by name and given the opportunity to interact. The resources were strong and durable which is a must for my rough class of young boys!	Was most suitable that the storytime was in a side room of the library as some of my pupils would have been distracted by other people and the books in general library. The multi-sensory aspect of the stories suited the pupils really well but some children found the session too long.	Could discuss with the school beforehand to see if particular stories tie in with class topics/interests. However, general stories were fine too!	This was a good learning experience for me as a teacher in how to engage the children more appropriately during storytime.
09/02/2011	Oakwood School and Assessment Centre, Belfast	The Story-Go-Round was very enjoyable, children who are not usually interested in storytime were engaged and participated. Bernard was great with the children. The only downside was that the seats were adult size which made sitting more difficult for the children.	The children all enjoyed the story and it challenged some of their sensory needs, children who avoid loud noises enjoyed making the lifeboat sounds. There were no worst aspects as far as the children were concerned.	Weekly. In a physically smaller circle and child size chairs.	We had a fantastic session today and would attend regular sessions in Finaghy library. Having the story in a private room was great as we didn't worry about the children disrupting other library users. A fantastic idea and we'd love to see more.
11/02/2011	Tor Bank School, Dundonald	Great. The stories suited all of our children and enjoyed by staff too - inspirational.	All great - lovely props - very intriguing especially the hair cutter and apron.		Thank you!

**Quantitative Qs&As:**

What was your school's overall experience of Story-Go-Round?		
v. poor	0	0%
poor	0	0%
average	0	0%
good	1	10%
<b>v. good</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>90%</b>

What was your school's experience of Bag Books' organisation?		
v. poor	0	0%
poor	0	0%
average	0	0%
good	1	10%
<b>v. good</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>90%</b>

What was your school's experience of the information you received before the event?		
v. poor	0	0%
poor	0	0%
average	0	0%
good	1	12%
<b>v. good</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>88%</b>

What was your school's experience of the running of the event on the day?		
v. poor	0	0%
poor	0	0%
average	0	0%
good	1	10%
<b>v. good</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>90%</b>

	Yes	Yes %
Have you used multi-sensory stories before the Story-Go-Round event?	<b>5</b>	<b>50%</b>
Did the children enjoy the session?	<b>10</b>	<b>100%</b>
Did the children benefit from the session?	<b>10</b>	<b>100%</b>
Is the library an appropriate place for storytelling for your pupils/students?	<b>9</b>	<b>100%</b>
Should the library be open to the public during these visits	<b>5</b>	<b>63%</b>
If the library offered regular multi-sensory storytelling to your school? Would this help towards the children's learning aims?	<b>10</b>	<b>100%</b>
Would you be interested in coming regularly?	<b>10</b>	<b>100%</b>

No	No %
<b>5</b>	<b>50%</b>
0	0%
0	0%
0	0%
3	37%
0	0%
0	0%

What would be an appropriate frequency for such sessions?		
<1/term	0	0%
1/term	3	30%
<b>2-5/term</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>40%</b>
6-10/term	1	10%
>10/term	2	20%

## Appendix V – Training Session Participants’ Feedback

Host Library	What was the best aspect of the training?	How could the training have been better?	How will you make use of today’s training?	Any other comments or suggestions?
Lisburn City Library	Watching and listening to resources being used.		Use within the classroom.	
Lisburn City Library	Listening to a story being told and given good ideas.		Use the Bag Books that we have in school more.	
Lisburn City Library	It was very practical and incredibly useful!	N/A	I am going to ask the local libraries if they have any I could borrow and locate the couple we have in school.	Very useful session, really enjoyed the training.
Lisburn City Library	It was all very interesting.	It couldn't have been.	Use different stories with the children.	
Lisburn City Library	Gaining knowledge of why the methods used are so important - slow, repeating etc. Makes sense.	Don't think so.	Style of telling the story.	Very good and worthwhile.
Lisburn City Library	Observing the storytime.	Can't think - it was very enjoyable.	Hopefully use it with the pre-school and maybe disabled children.	
Lisburn City Library	Seeing the story told and then the following experience of trying it myself.		Bring repetition into ordinary storytelling and the sensory experience with certain books.	
Lisburn City Library	Both the observation and training session tied in extremely well.		I would like to investigate the possibility of building links with special schools re storytelling sessions.	Excellent training day.
Lisburn City Library	Relevance to my work.		Use it within my workplace to tell stories.	
Lisburn City Library	Seeing the packs in use.	Longer use of packs.		
Lisburn City Library	Bernard and seeing the actual storytelling in action.		Keep the importance of sensory /visual props in mind.	Excellent - really enjoyable.
Lisburn City Library	The relevance to the children in our school.	N/A	In work with special needs.	N/A

Lurgan Library	Learning the different aspects of Bag Books and the various ways in which the stories can aid children with learning difficulties.	Maybe having spent a longer time actually training us in telling the stories ourselves.	I will be able to use today's training in normal storytelling as well as hopefully when we incorporate Bag Books in the future.	Has been a very good experience.
Lurgan Library	Emphasis on tactile props and thoughts on how to utilise the Bag Books was very good.	No.	As a learning I will be able to advise staff on how to go forward with using Bag Books.	N/A
Lurgan Library	Alerted me to existence of Bag Books and showed how beneficial they could be in an appropriate setting.	The training itself was very informative. What perhaps needs to be bettered is where exactly Libraries NI take it.	Hopefully by forging links with local schools for children with special needs.	Very entertaining and enjoyable training.
Lurgan Library	Learning to interact more effectively with the children.	While it was good to get all the background I would have liked more practice at telling the stories.	Will try to use new skills when telling stories to all children.	I enjoyed the training session and learned new skills.
Enniskillen Library	Practical ideas suitable for my work setting.		Encourage school to purchase Bag Books' stories.	Very enthusiastic trainer.
Enniskillen Library	The trainer was very good.		Try to use with the PMLD child in my class with some class stories.	Great ideas.
Enniskillen Library	Learn so much about the children I work with PMLD.	Could not fault the training.	Speak slower to the children.	Excellent.
Enniskillen Library	Actually watching the stories being told. Understanding how they work with different learning groups.		Helpful in using with pre-school being aware of using repetition.	Found the training inspiring.
Enniskillen Library	To listen to the stories and to see how the props were used and to see how the children used them and interacted.	It was great - trainer was very enthusiastic. Keep up the good work.	Would like to use this type of idea with pre-school children to tell stories.	Brilliant idea.
Enniskillen Library	The trainer was excellent - he made the storytelling look easy but I found it difficult when we were given the opportunity to tell the story.	I would like the training session to be longer. Today's sessions only gave me just a flavour of what Bag Books can do for children with learning difficulties.	Excellent.	I found today's training excellent.

Enniskillen Library	Interesting. Well presented.	I don't think it could have been.	Help with work / storytelling in the library.	Thoroughly enjoyable and informative.
Derry Central Library	Information about how to communicate and engage with people with learning difficulties.	Don't think it could be better!	Will use information in supporting schools with learning disabled pupils with resources and storytelling sessions - hopefully acquire some Bag Books.	Very impressed with the whole concept of Bag Books.
Derry Central Library	Seeing it work with the class in the morning.	Could have done with more time.	Will try it with Rhymetime using story sacks; will tell the story more slowly and use props differently.	Really enjoyed the session - Trainer excellent.
Derry Central Library	Everything was great. I loved the storytelling session. Gave a great opportunity to see first hand how to tell the stories, repetition etc. Liked getting to use the resources personally too.	N/A	I will think more about the storytelling session e.g. take more time. Hopefully the school and library will purchase the books which I will definitely use.	Excellent training session. I came across these books before online and asked the library to get them. I would be delighted if they did and I am pleased that they held this training session as there is limited resources for PMLD in libraries.
Derry Central Library	Giving different ideas for storytelling to all ages and abilities.	More time.	I will adapt what I normally do with more visually and audio equipment and more interaction with participants.	Excellent idea, great for librarians to help get disabled/special needs people into the libraries.
Derry Central Library	Whole day very valuable.	Longer - with opportunity to purchase would have been great. That enthused I want to start tomorrow.	Look to introduce Bag Books at a whole school level and build into school literacy programme.	Many thanks for a very enjoyable as well as informative day. Looking forward to further support and training in future.
Derry Central Library	All of it was very relevant. The theory behind the development of the Bag [Books] was very interesting. Practising the stories was also very useful.	Not really. Perhaps more time.	At first telling stories with small groups of nursery children. Then working with the special schools.	I enjoyed the stories and the training. I look forward to using the Bag [Books].
Derry Central Library	Getting to understand reasons why and how the storytelling takes place - very slowly, repetition.		Incorporating sensory materials into storytelling sessions.	

Derry Central Library	Seeing the storyteller an action and practising ourselves - gave a good sense of what the children would see/feel/hear.	Very good workshop.	To use with toddler/nursery groups.	
Derry Central Library	Delivered in a clear, interesting and easy to understand way.		By applying multi-sensory storytelling techniques to all storytelling and rhyme time events within the library.	Thank you.
Derry Central Library	New information on special needs. Seems do-able in library setting.		Hope to do storytelling with special needs class in near future.	Worthwhile experience.
Derry Central Library	Learning repetition and slowing down.		Not sure yet. Maybe with older people.	
Limavady Library	Gaining a greater awareness of how to interact with disabled children - this was something I was very unfamiliar with.	Can't think of anything!	I would love my library to get some Bag Books in and initially I would try using them with toddlers. It would encourage me to use props in storytelling.	An excellent training session, very enjoyable and worthwhile.
Limavady Library	Actually getting to use the Bag Books props and see what they feel like.	A bit more time to practise with the props would be nice.	Implement more sensory aids into my storytelling.	Very educational and great fun.
Limavady Library	Seeing storytelling session before training.		Will apply it to all storytelling sessions.	Very informative - Learned more about special needs children and how they perceive the world.
Limavady Library	Telling the stories and using the props.	It couldn't.		Excellent for sensory deprived children.
Limavady Library	Communicating with the children with special needs and actually doing the stories.		Use ideas with Rhythm and Rhyme.	
Limavady Library	How to communicate with children.	None.	I would like to use it in my library.	Bernard was very good at the training.
Ballymena Library	Easy to understand, excellently presented, clear and interesting.		Hoping to start a reading club through the Belfast Giants.	Thoroughly enjoyable, I felt like I learnt a lot.
Ballymena Library	Learning about Bag Books.	It was great.	Tell stories.	
Ballymena Library	Showing of the story telling.			
Ballymena Library	The way in which the storyteller engaged with the children.	N/A	In future class visits.	The storyteller was extremely professional.

Ballymena Library	Observation, video and background info and range of background.	Observation of group (was error with buses but another opportunity has been provided) Thanks.	Yes.	
Ballymena Library	I enjoyed everything, especially research.	Not.	Yes after lots of practice.	Really enjoyable.
Ballymena Library	Watching how the stories are told/delivered. Learning about the theory behind learning language.		Look at building it into the services that I already provide and build it into my new business.	
Ballymena Library	Relaxed and the ability to get the children to interact.	No.	Yes in toddler storytime.	
Ballymena Library	Explanation of how Bag Books engage child.	Factors outside your control - technology and class.	Introduce it into storytelling.	Very interesting – enjoyable.
Ballymena Library			By purchasing the books and using them in my group.	
Ballymena Library	Content and trainer was a very good communicator.	A longer workshop would have been helpful.	With Home visits to engage children.	Very useful concepts and stories for communication.
Ballymena Library	Getting involved in the stories.		It will make me think more about what children are thinking when we read them stories.	
Rathcoole Library, Newtownabbey	To actually see a group of children being told a story.		Use some of the ideas for storytelling.	The sessions were great and the training session really explained the need for multi-sensory books.
Rathcoole Library, Newtownabbey	Watching how it was done properly and having a go.		Hopefully in the library or on visits with schools.	
Rathcoole Library, Newtownabbey	The best aspect of the training was seeing the reaction of profoundly disabled children to the storytelling.	I would like to have been present at other sessions involving other children with different disabilities.	Apply some of the methods used today with younger children.	
Rathcoole Library, Newtownabbey	Info about learning difficulties.		I will use it for my current storytelling groups.	Very good training.
Finaghy Library	In depth and concise.	DVD didn't work, but not Bernard's fault!	Will use it in storytimes we do with special needs groups.	

Finaghy Library				Yes.	Excellent - an amazing session.
Finaghy Library	The delivery of the story.			Finding stories at school to turn into multi-sensory stories.	A worthwhile course. [Bag Books] are great!
Finaghy Library	I enjoyed it all.	Would like to have seen the DVD. Unfortunately computer didn't work.		Will be more confident when doing sessions with our special schools.	
Finaghy Library	Using the Bag Books story.	DVD could have worked (not trainer's fault).		More confident in working with children.	Very enjoyable and useful.
Finaghy Library	Hearing the stories being told.	No improvement necessary.		Hopefully through in practice.	
Finaghy Library	Terrific presentation and friendly tutor, knowledgeable and precise.	Longer!		Hopefully every Thursday with our specific needs group.	Great course, very worthwhile.
Finaghy Library	Bernard was so knowledgeable and I learnt a lot.	Couldn't have been.		By contacting the school who attended today and getting kids into the library.	I hope that Libraries NI buy the packs.
Finaghy Library	Listening to the stories.			Hopefully follow through in practice.	Brilliant!
Finaghy Library	Seeing an actual session with disabled children.			Can see how it could be used with older people as a reminiscence session, especially those with dementia possibly.	Very informative and enjoyable. Thank you.
Banbridge Library	Seeing how to use the Bag Books and in the observation session the children's reactions.	Slightly longer session to enable more practice.		Some of the ideas could be used within library storytimes. Hopefully the library will be able to get some Bag Books for use.	Excellent technique to help all children enjoy stories.
Banbridge Library	How to actually implement the story.	More practical work.		Use Bag Books in my class.	
Banbridge Library	Seeing how the children reacted and how much they enjoyed the interaction.	Maybe more time myself to practise the storytelling.		Probably will depend on the possibility of the library service buying the Bag Books.	Really enjoyed the sessions.
Banbridge Library	Very difficult to say: it was very important to see a session as it gave depth to the training. Seeing the DVD was very interesting but actually working with the book was insightful.	It couldn't!		(with practice it could be definitely). I hope that the library service will buy some of the books so that we can work with library staff and their local schools.	An excellent concept, delivered in an informative and entertaining manner. Thank you for the opportunity.

Banbridge Library	Story-telling. Visual demonstrations.			Bring more props into storytelling.	An excellent demonstration bringing storytelling to life. Workshop appropriate and relevant.
Banbridge Library	Practical aspect and demo.	Training excellent - would have loved it for all staff.		Practise stories we have in school.	Super training!
Banbridge Library	Various storytelling tips - very worthwhile.				The energy and enthusiasm of the trainer was stunning!
Banbridge Library	Demo of how to use books.	All was excellent.		Improved techniques.	Excellent in every way.
Banbridge Library	The theory behind the Bag Books is very interesting and watching an expert tell the stories is great.	The training was excellent but I feel I would need a great deal of practice in order to feel confident or competent.		Possibly use some of the ideas for storytime.	Thanks very interesting training.
Banbridge Library					
Banbridge Library	Psychology behind format/delivery. Seeing in operation with the children.	Was great, can't improve much!		Advice to staff - possible relevance to future programmes.	Very good. (Hard to rate as I am used to more complex plots). Very interesting and informative.
Banbridge Library	Actually trying to tell the story using a Bag Book.	Watching a little more of the DVD.		I'm not sure we have the opportunity to do so in the near future.	A very useful experience making me think more of how children with learning difficulties can enjoy stories.
Dundonald Library	Seeing the Bag Books in action and hearing about the theories behind it - extremely interesting.	Training was excellent		Do some research on language development - use ideas to incorporate in future training programmes.	
Dundonald Library	Storytelling based on sensory multi-purpose books very interesting. Also chat about different spectrums of children very informative.			Will be more aware of importance of using sensory techniques during story-telling sessions.	Excellent and informative day.
Dundonald Library	Practical use of the Bag Books.	More time.		I hope to use it in my workplace with adults who have special needs.	I really enjoyed this and found the information on language development very interesting.
Dundonald Library	Seeing storytelling with the children's reactions. Trying the Bag Books.	A longer workshop.			
Dundonald Library	Gaining practical experience using the books.			Hope to use in the classroom.	

Dundonald Library	Suggestions of how to tell the stories and theory for my younger children. Lots of new strategies to try.	Was great.	See above.	
Dundonald Library	Trying out stories. Informative.	Time on day.	Implement in classroom.	N/A
Dundonald Library	Enjoyed all the theory behind the Bag Books.	No, excellent training.	Yes.	
Dundonald Library	Having a go with the resources. Seeing the stories read to the children earlier.		By borrowing Bag Books from the school and using them in class and trying to make some of my own for R.E.	Brilliant - thank you.
Dundonald Library	Combination of theory and hands on opportunity to use Bag Books appropriately.	Unfortunately I did not see Bag Books being used with the students. Thought it was for young students, primary only.	Hopefully will be able to order Bag Books. Adapt current storytelling. Realised that "sometimes less is more when storytelling!"	Would be great if Bag Books were available in the public library. Bag Books could be used in mainstream as well as in Special Education School setting.

**Quantitative Qs&As:**

How do you rate the STYLE of the presentation?	
v. poor	0   0%
poor	1   1%
average	0   0%
good	5   6%
<b>v. good</b>	<b>83   93%</b>

The person who put "poor" also wrote  
 "(Explanation of Poor - not your fault -  
 technology and class)"

How do you rate the QUALITY of the content?	
v. poor	0   0%
poor	0   0%
average	0   0%
good	7   8%
<b>v. good</b>	<b>80   92%</b>

How do you rate the QUANTITY of the content?	
v. poor	0   0%
poor	0   0%
average	0   0%
good	10   11%
<b>v. good</b>	<b>77   89%</b>

How do you rate the RELEVANCE of the content to you?	
v. poor	0   0%
poor	0   0%
average	4   5%
good	15   17%
<b>v. good</b>	<b>68   78%</b>

Would you feel confident using multi-sensory stories?	
Definitely No	2   2%
Probably No	0   0%
Possibly	17   19%
<b>Probably Yes</b>	<b>40   45%</b>
Definitely Yes	30   34%

How would you rate Bag Books' multi-sensory stories?	
v. poor	0   0%
poor	0   0%
average	0   0%
good	8   9%
<b>v. good</b>	<b>80   91%</b>