



Talk with Tales for Children (TWiTCH)

An Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) efficacy trial

The Talk with Tales for Children (TWiTCH) trial



- *A year long professional development programme to support practitioners' interactive book reading skills*
- *Start date **October 2026***
- ***No cost** to settings*
- ***Coach support** throughout the year (3 visits to settings)*
- *Programme fits into existing **Storytime routine***
- *A designated setting-based TWiTCH champion*
- ***6 hour training** from your coach (October-November to be organised with coach)*



Talk with Tales for Children (TWiTCH)

A programme designed to help practitioners build confidence in leading story time conversations.

TWiTCH enables practitioners to nurture children's language and communication skills through:

- **Repeated daily readings** of stories
- Use of **dialogic reading** prompts, games and activities, and
- Playful learning environments

Participating settings will deliver **9** traditional stories each lasting for **3 weeks** (1 cycle)



Each three-week cycle includes:

- **Week 1:** Developing children's understanding of the story and providing opportunities for discussion about characters and events.
- **Week 2:** Deepening discussion through choice-based activities focused on the moral dilemmas within the stories.
- **Week 3:** Supporting children to apply their story knowledge in play (e.g. through continuous provision), with additional support for children who need it.





The TWiTCH efficacy evaluation trial (2026-2027)

- **What:** Research to test TWiTCH's impact on language and communication
- **How:** Compare children's language skills in the **intervention** and **control** groups and practitioner knowledge and confidence
- **Intervention** settings:
 - *receive the TWiTCH intervention, coaching and complete evaluation activities and receive £575 to support evaluation activities and champion's role*
- **Control** settings will:
 - *continue with their usual story time practice, take part in evaluation activities and receive a £1000 thank you*

Intervention settings

Support from a named TWiTCH coach :

Initial TWiTCH training at your setting (**2 x 3 hours**), and three **coaching visits (3 x 1 hour)**.

Nursery leaders will be asked to:

- Ensure all the staff who will be delivering TWiTCH attend the training (minimum 2 practitioners)
- Appoint a **TWiTCH Champion**, who will also attend online Champion training (2 hours)
- Attend two online network events (2 × 30 minutes)
- Liaise with the TWiTCH team throughout the efficacy trial
- Support their colleagues with implementation and evaluation activities



What does the evaluation involve?

- Short child language assessments at the start and end of the year conducted by Navigator Insight Limited (all settings)
- Short staff questionnaires at three timepoints (all settings)
- Audio recordings of nursery story-time towards the end of the programme (in some settings)
- Short staff interviews either online or in person (in some settings)
- Observation of TWiTCH lessons and coaching sessions by the evaluation team (in some settings)

Why should settings sign up?

TWITCH

- promotes **characteristics of effective learning**
- supports **good levels of development** in prime areas of learning
- fits in with existing **nursery routines**
- supported by skilled early years **coaches**
- is an **evidenced based programme**



Who can join?

- Offer **funded places for 3 and 4-year-olds**
- Located in the North-West, East Midlands and Yorkshire and the Humber
- Have **sufficient space and staffing** to run story time with **groups of around ten children**
- Have **at least 15 children aged 3-4 attending for a minimum of 15 hours per week**
- Have a **minimum of two staff** working with preschool cohorts
- The reception/nursery classroom in the setting is not involved in other EEF projects or EEF Evidence into Action Partnerships during the 2026 – 27 academic year'
- Not previously have taken part in TWITCH training
- *Further information* <https://research.shu.ac.uk/twitchefficacytrial/>
- *Complete the **expression of interest form***
<https://forms.office.com/e/Rq3pwJGUiT?origin=lprLink>



Now enrolling Early Years Settings for Sept 2026



<https://research.shu.ac.uk/twitchefficacytrial/>



SCAN ME



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