



# Helicopter Stories- Letting Imagination Fly

## What is Helicopter Stories?

**Helicopter Stories: Letting Imagination Fly** is based on the Storytelling and Story Acting curriculum of our patron Vivian Gussin Paley. MakeBelieve Arts has been pioneering this work in the UK since its conception in 2002.

In its simplest form children dictate their stories which are written down verbatim, exactly as they are told. The group then gathers around a taped out stage and the stories are acted out.

Alongside the simplicity of this approach is an ethos that is child-centred, creating a culture of curiosity and wonder at the dexterity of children's imaginings during both the telling and the acting out of their stories.

This holistic approach uses the power of storytelling to develop key curriculum areas such as creativity, communication and language, personal, social and emotional skills in the **Early Years and Key Stage 1 classroom**.

### The Benefits:

- An **inclusive, whole-class approach** which values every child's contribution;
- Facilitates **high levels of engagement**;
- Creates **confidence and self-assurance**;
- Supports the **development of speaking skills** as children express and share their ideas;
- Helps to develop **accurate, active listening skills and understanding**;
- Supports **co-operative and collaborative and creative learning**;
- Develops **positive relationships** within a shared storytelling experience;
- Allows children to **explore the power of words** as they see their stories come to life, and develop their ability to **use and adapt language to communicate**;
- Offers children a **bridge into the world of story writing** as they begin to see the links between the oral stories they compose and the words on a page.

### Trisha Lee (FRSA) - Founder and Artistic Director

Trisha Lee founded MakeBelieve Arts in 2002. She oversees the development of the artistic programme, devising, writing and directing theatre shows, as well as the initiation and delivery of many of our creative programmes. Trish has directed twelve shows with the company and has run countless projects in schools both in the UK and overseas. Widely known for her work on **Helicopter Stories**, she is in demand to speak at conferences and deliver training and in-class sessions across the world.



She has run courses throughout the UK, the USA, South Africa, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Australia and New Zealand, working with both children and adults. Based on her work in theatre and education, her ability to link current educational theory with theatre practice and a passionate interest in how children learn, Trish has published chapters in several educational publications and has also co-written two editions of *Teaching Mathematics Creatively*, with Linda Pound. Trisha's most recent book, **Princesses, Dragons and Helicopter Stories** is a detailed 'how to' manual on the Helicopter Stories approach. It was shortlisted in 2016 for Academic Book of the Year, by the UKLA.

**When: Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

**Where: Etherley Lane Nursery School, Hazel Grove, Bishop Auckland, DL14 7RF**

**Session 1: 9 a.m- 12 p.m    Session 2: 1 p.m- 4 p.m**

**Please specify whether you wish to attend session 1 or session 2.**

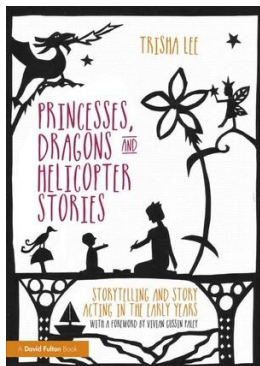
**Please note lunch is not provided.**

**Cost: £70.00 per person**

**How to Book: Contact Joe Sonnenfeld, Durham Teaching School Alliance Manager.**

**Email: [j.sonnenfeld200@durhamlearning.net](mailto:j.sonnenfeld200@durhamlearning.net) or tel: 01388 451278**

**You will receive a confirmation of booking within 24 hours**



*'We recommend that participants purchase a copy of the book as a course manual – some settings buy one per setting, some buy one per classroom or per person, it is entirely up to you. We sell these at £15 each.*

*<http://www.makebelievearts.co.uk/princesses-dragons-and-helicopter-stories/> This publication was shortlisted for the UKLA academic book of the year 2016'.*

**Please let me know if you wish to purchase a copy of Princesses, Dragons and Helicopter Stories. Trish will bring these with her and will need to know numbers before the event.**

**Deadline for Expressions of Interest: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018**