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**3-day ‘Setting up Therapeutic Story Writing Groups’ training course for SENCOs, teachers, support staff and learning mentors supporting pupils with social and emotional needs**

**Autumn term –** Friday 13th October, Friday 10th November and Friday 1st December 2017

**Spring term -** Thursday 18th January, Thursday 8th February and Thursday 8th March 2018

**Venue** TBC

**Cost:** £450 in total per delegate for the full 3 days, this includes an additional two sessions of group supervision post training

**Course content**

* Relationship between emotional and cognitive development;
* The emotional significance of story metaphor
* Active listening in the context of story work
* Set up and delivery of the 10 week Therapeutic Storywriting intervention

The positive impact of therapeutic stories is well documented and evidenced within educational literature and practice. Research commissioned by the South-east Region SEN partnerships shows that Therapeutic Storywriting Groups help pupils:

·     Process difficult feelings

·     Develop social skills

·     Improve emotional resilience

·     Improve writing skills

·     Provides an emotionally containing environment in which to support the thinking process

Therapeutic Story Writing (TSW) has been developed as an SEN intervention which uses the medium of story writing to support children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health difficulties (SEMH). The intervention uses metaphor both within the children’s own writing and the stories written by the facilitator in order to address concerns which may be too emotionally overwhelming for children to talk about directly.

Research has shown that it can both increase motivation to write and the development of emotional literacy skills. Therapeutic Storywriting is an innovative and creative way to support children whose emotional difficulties are getting in the way of their academic learning. Therapeutic Storywriting  Groups  consist of 4-6 children, requires an hour and runs weekly for  10 weeks. The group intervention is suitable for pupils aged 7-12 years.

This exciting opportunity to attend the 3 day training organised by the Educational Psychology Team offers a **maximum of 12 places per training days** in the Autumn and Spring terms. Places are limited and bookings can be made via the Leeds for Learning webpage; [www.leedsforlearning.co.uk](http://www.leedsforlearning.co.uk)

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