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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, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs**

**Summer term** – Friday 24th April, 22nd May and 19th June

**Venue**: the Boardroom at Adam’s Court

**Cost:** £420 in total per delegate for the full 3 days and an additional session of supervision

**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

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 increase the motivation to write and develop 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**. Places are limited and bookings can be made via the Leeds for Learning webpage; [www.leedsforlearning.co.uk](http://www.leedsforlearning.co.uk)

For more information please contact; Emily.jackson@leeds.gov.uk at Leeds Educational Psychology Team