Beyond Words

A collection of wordless stories about everyday life. Our materials provide a communication toolkit including:

- Print Books
- eBooks
- Mobile App
Who is Beyond Words?

Beyond Words, a charity, publishes wordless picture stories that address a huge range of subjects such as health, relationships, bereavement, trauma and employment.

Without such resources, important conversations are often avoided for lack of confidence in how to address them.

www.booksbeyondwords.co.uk
Beyond Words materials help overcome communication barriers
Our communication toolkit supports people to

- assess understanding
- start a dialogue
- reduce anxiety
- put service users in the driving seat
- decide
- empower
Visual literacy is…

the ability to make meaning from information presented in the form of a picture.

a personal opinion about what a picture means.
Why Pictures?

Even a single image offers a “blank page” for discussion

- Wordless books act as ‘story frames’ that allow readers to get past decoding to tell the stories in their own words.

- Sequential pictures enable readers to process concepts.

- Images can activate readers’ memories of similar past events and experiences.

- Illustrations also provide readers with knowledge of situations that are outside their experience.

- Words are quite linear and impose an agenda whereas a picture allows the person to scan the whole before focusing on what is most important and meaningful to them.

How can you use Books Beyond Words?

Reading one on one...

...to open a dialogue and give people a voice
How can you use Books Beyond Words?

Reading with a group...

...exploring and understanding different types of situations
Let’s read a picture...
The Layered Reading technique

This is a reading technique that:

• uses mostly open questions in a structured order to help readers to interpret a picture in a meaningful way.
• encourages deeper reflection.
• builds trust between supporter and reader and creates ‘a safe space’ for sharing.
The Layered Reading Approach

- I wonder who that is?
- I wonder what he/she is called?
- I wonder what is happening?
- What is he/she doing?
- I wonder what he/she is saying?
- I wonder what he/she is thinking?
- I wonder how he/she is feeling?
- Do you feel like that?
- Has that happened to you/ your friend/ your family?
Now apply the Layered Reading Approach…

- I wonder who that is?
- I wonder what he/she is called?
- I wonder what is happening?
- What is he/she doing?
- I wonder what he/she is saying?
- I wonder what he/she is thinking?
- I wonder how he/she is feeling?
- Do you feel like that?
- Has that happened to you/ your friend/ your family?
How did using this technique help to read the picture?
Exercise – reading in pairs

One person is a Client with learning disabilities. The other person is supporting the client while they read.

1. The Supporter holds the book.
2. Read for 5 minutes.
3. The Client holds the book.
4. Read for 5 minutes.
How did you feel?

When the Supporter held the book?

When the Client held the book?
Beyond Words Communication Toolkit

Offers staff, carers and supporters:

• BW Story App with all Beyond Words images and stories on their mobile device
• BW Story App with supplementary eBook library
• Training on visual literacy and layered reading techniques (online or face-to-face training)
• Print books for group and community reading
Beyond Words Story App

Access via your tablet or mobile device to 420 short story scenarios (2-9 images per scenario) under 9 searchable categories

- Health
- Behaviour
- Healthy living
- Criminal justice
- Young people
- Abuse and trauma
- Accessing services
- Lifestyle and relationships
- Mental health and grief
Beyond Words eBookshelf

- Full library of all 56 Beyond Words stories in eBook format
- Accessible via the Story App interface on your tablet or mobile.

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Beyond Words eLearning

- Foundation Module including techniques for using BW wordless stories as communication tools
- Introduction to visual literacy and layered reading
- Specialist modules for healthcare and supported employment settings – coming soon!

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How might you use these communication tools?

Group discussion
Any questions?
Thank you