

# eye brings you another batch of the latest products and books on offer

## RESOURCE OF THE MONTH

### StoryPhones from Ameeca Ltd

The 6-way system costs £595 ex vat; the 4-way system costs £495 ex vat.

info@storyphones.co.uk www.storyphones.co.uk

Review by Martine Horvath

These are brilliant, portable, robust headsets that come in various colours. They help children to develop their listening, communication and ICT skills wherever they are in your setting.

They are ideal for use in the *Early Years Foundation Stage* (EYFS), StoryPhones give children the opportunity to walk around, go outside, find their own desired place in the setting to listen to stories, music, songs, games and things they have recorded themselves (using the built-in microphone, from a tape or from some other external source).

This will prove to be one of those essential pieces of kit every setting should have because it supports all six areas of learning across the EYFS and

**Professional  
resource**

Communication

is so versatile that not only can you do things suggested in the very clear, easy-to-use and step-by-step approach handbook, it inspires you to think of other creative ways you could use it.

It really is so innovative.

For example, to support children with English as an additional language (EAL) you may invite a parent to record a traditional story, rhyme or song in their home language for children to listen to, play with and be comforted by.

You can listen to key words, such as 'toilet', 'snack' or 'drink' so that, when needed, you can pronounce them correctly, helping with communication and transitions.

What could be more comforting if you are having a frustrating day than curling up somewhere cosy or finding your own quiet space outside to listen to mum, dad or another familiar relative's voice telling you a story or singing you a song in your home language?



The headsets come with a base unit that recharges them when connected to the mains and when you connect the USB port of the computer to it you can also transfer content.

The Bookshelf software that accompanies the StoryPhones has two modes of operation, one for adults and one for children (handy for preventing accidental deletion) and comes with plenty of resources and on-line functions.

Although they may be a little pricy they are worth every penny because they are durable, rechargeable, fun, portable and support EYFS in every aspect.

## Role-play in the Early Years by Sally Featherstone and Ann Cummings

(ISBN: 9781408124987)

£17.99. Paperback.

Published by A&C Black/ Featherstone Education.

Tel: 020 7758 0200.

www.acblack.com/featherstone

Review by Martine Horvath

Role-play is one of the most safe, reassuring and fun ways for children to learn. They can try things out in a safe way, test their knowledge and understanding of the world, communicate and negotiate with others and practice new found skills through role-play.

Children take on roles, dress up and make sense of their world in role-play. This is a valuable book that examines the importance of role-play and the way it develops in children from the very early years to around seven-years-old.

Real scenarios are looked at with a critical eye and five examples of role-play areas are explored. There is guidance on incorporating role-play in planning for child-initiated learning and also as a tool for supporting adult-directed learning.



## How Children Learn 3 by Linda Pound

(ISBN: 9781904575887). £16.99. Paperback. Published by Practical Pre-School Books. <http://books.practicalpreschool.com/khxc/>

Review by Martine Horvath

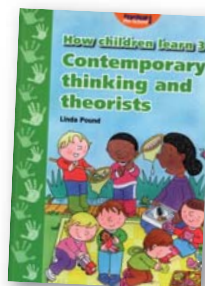
Educational theorists can be rather heavy reading but this book lends itself to either in-depth or casual reading.

It follows the same accessible style and layout as the previous titles in the How children Learn series and helps to de-mystify the

theorists and their approaches, making them accessible and

**Professional  
resource**

Theorists



user-friendly. All early years students and practitioners should find this an invaluable resource.