

## StoryPhones Overview

StoryPhones is a complete digital audio system using MP3 technology. It has been designed by a teacher for children to help develop their language, communication, listening & literacy skills. These skills are the foundations of learning and it is essential that they are acquired by children in the early stages of their education. StoryPhones ensure that ICT is used throughout the School, Early Years & Nursery environment and is embedded across the curriculum.

The StoryPhones Headsets do not need to be connected to a computer or any other equipment while in use, and children are free to sit wherever they wish to listen. This overcomes one of the major limitations of existing audio systems which tie the listener to a CD or tape player in a particular location. There are no trailing cables to trip over or become tangled. This gives StoryPhones fantastic possibilities for Outdoor Learning.

There are **4 main aspects** to the StoryPhones System:

- StoryPhones MP3 Headsets
- StoryPhones Remote Console
- StoryPhones Base Unit
- StoryPhones Bookshelf Software

## StoryPhones MP3 Headsets

The StoryPhones Headsets have been specifically **designed to fit children** and to be simple and fun to use. They have built in long-life rechargeable batteries which will last a minimum of 8 hours continuous play before needing recharging. This is more than enough for a day of use.

There is a separate **MP3 player** built into each Headset allowing you to have either different content on each Headset, or the same content on all. This provides great versatility for group and individual learning, allowing StoryPhones to be used in learning activities for children of different abilities.

There are **no wires** on the Headsets allowing children to take them where they want to use them. StoryPhones Headsets are highly usable, whether in an outdoor nature trail, a musical activity where children want to play instruments and sing, a story session in the classroom or in an outdoor story area.

StoryPhones are **very simple to use**. There are 'Play/Pause', 'Skip' and 'Volume' buttons on the side of each Headset. These child-friendly controls can be configured very easily to allow the children to be able to use only certain buttons. For example, you may not want the child to be able to skip tracks, so that they concentrate on the story or activity being played. In this case the 'Skip' button can be temporarily disabled. This has many applications for **inclusive learning** when a child may have problems with attention or listening difficulties.

There is also the unique **'Automatic Play Control'** function, which is controlled by a motion sensor. When the child takes off the Headset and puts it down, the story or activity they are listening to pauses. When they pick it back up, it starts from where it left off, as if by magic!

The Headsets can store up to 8 hours of content that can be managed through the Bookshelf software, which we provide. For a complete system, the Base Unit connects multiple Headsets and a Remote Console to the computer via a standard USB cable (provided). A single Headset can also connect directly to a computer via a USB cable.

## StoryPhones Remote Console

The StoryPhones Remote Console has 3 main functions; remote control of the Headsets, recording, and as a loud-speaking MP3 player.

The Remote Console is a **loud-speaking MP3 player**. It can play stories, activities, music and more in the same way as a CD or tape player, but without the massive restriction or tangle of wires. It is portable and small enough for a child to hold in their hands. This allows them to listen as individuals or in small or large groups, either indoors or outdoors.

The **built in recording facility** allows children to record their own stories, podcasts, music or ideas. Individual recordings can be up to 40 minutes long, allowing more than enough time for a wide range of activities. The children's recordings are automatically transferred to the Bookshelf software on a computer, enabling them to listen to each others stories. These recordings can also be shared with parents as a podcast on a Virtual Learning Platform, or sent on a CD or by email, **improving the link between school and home learning**.

The **recording** facility is useful for practitioners to record their own activities, stories and lessons which can then be saved on the computer through the Bookshelf software, and used again at any time in the future. This means you can record your own learning activities and have children listen to them either on the Headsets or the Remote Console.

The **Remote Console also acts as a remote control for the Headsets**. This gives practitioners control over how and when the content is played on the Headsets, if set in this mode. This is very useful for adult-led learning and for directing learning towards specific goals. The control options are easily configured from within the Bookshelf software, allowing you to control one, a few, or all of the Headsets, giving great flexibility within a classroom or nursery environment.

## StoryPhones Base Unit

The Base Unit is a multi-way USB dock for your StoryPhones system. Its main functions are **storage and charging** of the Headsets and Remote Console, and to provide a simple way to **organise and transfer content** onto the StoryPhones. By placing the StoryPhones in the Base Unit and connecting it to a computer, content can be easily managed on up to 6 Headsets and a Remote Console at once via a USB cable, which we provide. When the Headsets and Remote Console are placed in the Base Unit at the end of the day, they will charge automatically and be ready for use the next day - they only take around 2 hours to fully charge.

## StoryPhones Bookshelf Software

The Bookshelf software will run on your school or personal computer. It allows the user to **organise all the content on the Headsets and Remote Console** very easily. It has a simple layout and is designed to be as **quick and straightforward** to use as possible.

Content can be quickly imported from many sources into Bookshelf. Audio content can also be purchased through Bookshelf from a number of **top children's book publishers** and other exciting audio providers such as **musicians** and our very own **StoryPhones Education Team**. Bookshelf also has a 'child-safe' option which will allow children to use it without being able to delete files or change any options or settings.

## StoryPhones content

StoryPhones can be used to listen to any audio content in MP3 format. Because we are nice, we will provide you with some free content to help you get started!

The StoryPhones online shop provides a range of content from the StoryPhones Education Team and many of the major educational publishers. This includes audio books, traditional tales, nursery rhymes, songs, music and "listen-and-do" activities. We also currently developing and working with publishers on Modern Foreign Languages content to use with StoryPhones.

Users will be able to buy all of this content at the touch of a button from within Bookshelf through a secure ordering system which makes buying content simple and safe.

You can create your own content for use on StoryPhones using the Recording facility on the Remote Console allowing you to specifically target areas for improvement within your school or nursery. There are also many excellent websites which provide free audio content in MP3 format which can be used on StoryPhones. Our own website will provide you with quick and easy links to these so you don't have to trawl the web for hours!

## Learning Benefits

- Embed audio resources and ICT into all areas of Early Years Curriculums
- Use audio ICT for literacy, music, MFL, numeracy, speaking and listening
- Develop outdoor learning
- Develop children's speaking and listening skills
- Create opportunities for inclusion of children with SEN, S&L difficulties and EAL
- Create opportunities to raise boy's achievement with focused learning
- Provide an alternative means of assessment and tracking
- Allow children to share their recordings with parents and friends, on Virtual Learning Platforms, by email and as podcasts

## how to contact us

To find out more or to place an order, contact:

**StoryPhones**  
Ameeca Ltd  
The Greenhouse  
Greencroft Park  
Annfield Plain  
Co. Durham  
DH9 7XN  
t: 0845 652 0906  
f: 01207 524 868  
e: [info@storyphones.co.uk](mailto:info@storyphones.co.uk)  
[www.storyphones.co.uk](http://www.storyphones.co.uk)

StoryPhones by  
**ameeca**

UK Patent No. GB2431813

# storyPhones

## Product Information

The  
listening  
station  
evolves...



[www.storyphones.co.uk](http://www.storyphones.co.uk)

This leaflet is printed on 70% recycled paper and printed with vegetable based inks. Please recycle by passing on to a colleague!