



Stories with
Symbols

Stories with Symbols

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31st December 2023

23rd May 2024

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Administrative details

Registered charity name:	Stories with Symbols
Registered charity number:	1193393 (England & Wales)
Principal address:	14 Hartwell Road, Ashton, Northampton, NN7 2JR, UK
Trustees:	Alex Rowe; Katie Kennedy; Samantha Rowe

Structure, governance and management

Stories with Symbols is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) whose only voting members are its charity trustees. The charity trustees manage the affairs of the CIO and operate according to the Governing Document adopted on 3rd February 2021.

Objectives and activities

The objective of Stories with Symbols is to advance the education of individuals, in particular (but not exclusively), children with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN), through the provision of specialist videos, created by the charity.

The videos are free-to-access and are designed from the outset for children with additional needs, to stimulate their interest in books and shared reading, while supporting the development of core communication, language and literacy skills.

Achievements and impact

The charity's third year of operation was quiet compared with the previous two years:

- In the previous Annual Report, it was stated that "the outlook for 2023 will be a slower pace of video production, with an emphasis on quality over quantity".
- A new video was published ('Why should I brush my teeth?'), taking the total in the catalogue to 14. It featured a trip to the dentist and successfully demonstrated the concept of providing 'social story' style resources to support situations which some children find particularly challenging, while modelling useful language (e.g. "stop!") which can be transferred to other situations in which self-advocacy is important.
- The research into neuroaffirmative practice and gestalt language processing continued and led to a review of the use of non-fiction, topic based books for our videos. A revised plan was developed with a slower pace of production, a return to simpler texts for the time being, but using the third section of the videos more flexibly and imaginatively to introduce more explorative language and concepts.

- Katie Kennedy began a new professional role at a special school, and Alex Rowe took on an additional voluntary role with nearby charity Autism Early Support. Both of these had a significant impact on video production during 2023, but were important causes which align closely with the values and objectives of Stories with Symbols.
- The partnership with Usborne continues, and producing videos to coincide with World Book Day was prioritised while resources were thinly spread.
- The Stories with Symbols team travelled to the charity 'Support Dogs' to film section 3 for the video, 'That's not my dog...', for the World Book Day 2024 video release.
- The Stories with Symbols YouTube channel grew from around 68,000 views to over 125,000. The average daily number of views remained consistent at around 150. The number of subscribers grew to 650.
- Four videos are planned for 2024, including 'That's not my fire engine...' which will include in section 3 a visit to a real fire station, a tour of a fire engine and a demonstration of the emergency response to a 999 call.

Financial review

1. Position at the end of the period

- (1) Total income for 2023 was £1,202 and total expenditure was £1,529 representing an in-year deficit of £327.
- (2) Trustee Alex Rowe loaned £1,000 to the Charity to cover in-year expenditure. The terms of the loan are 0% interest indefinitely.

2. Reserves

- (1) Stories with Symbols has no employees or ongoing financial commitments. Reserves of £200 are deemed sufficient to meet the charity's needs.

3. Income and expenditure account for year ended 31.12.2023

	Notes	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Income:			
Loans	1	1,000	-
Donations		-	527
Sale of assets		202	-
Grants		-	1,832
Total Income		1,202	2,359
Capital Expenditure:			
Equipment		1,179	1,413
Props		-	-
Total Capital Expenditure		1,179	1,413
Non-Capital Expenditure:			
Software		104	-
Consumables		150	-
Presenter fees		-	-
Insurance		96	96
Marketing		-	-
Professional fees		-	400
Expenses		-	-
Total Non-Capital Expenditure		500	496
Total Expenditure		1,529	1,909
Surplus/(deficit)		(327)	450
Brought forward		1,026	576
Balance C/Fwd		698	1,026

Notes

1. Trustee's loan from A. Rowe

4. Balance sheet as at 31.12.2023

	Notes	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	1	1,662	1,297
CURRENT ASSETS			
Balance in current account		698	1,026
LIABILITIES			
Loans		(2,000)	(1,000)
TOTAL NET ASSETS		361	(107)

Notes

- 1 25% per year amortisation of the following items:

Asset	Date purchased	Purchase Price (£)	Value 2023 (£)
RØDE Wireless Pro microphones	19/11/2023	394.99	296.24
Aputure Amaran 200X S lighting	18/04/2023	372.00	279.00
Smallrig RA-D85 lighting softbox	17/04/2023	114.66	86.00
Pixapro C-stand	07/04/2023	139.98	104.99
Neewer X12 Teleprompter	27/02/2023	157.59	118.19
EF-RF Lens adapter	30/03/2022	104.00	52.00
EOS R Camera	30/03/2022	1,308.99	654.50
Cayer BV30L tripod	08/09/2021	138.99	34.75
Cushion fillings (set decor)	21/10/2021	18.99	4.75
Yellow cushion covers (set decor)	21/10/2021	16.99	4.25
Cayer BV30L tripod	04/11/2021	111.19	27.80
TOTAL:			1,662.47