

Coaching people to use Beyond Words resources

A coaching session can be delivered by a prison officer, healthcare practitioner, member of the chaplaincy team or a resident to train other staff and residents to read wordless books.

What are Books Beyond Words?

Books which use pictures to help people **understand** a topic and to explore what they **think** and **feel** about it.

How can I introduce a book to someone?

Explain that the book uses pictures to tell a story. People can talk about what they think and feel about each picture. The pictures also help people understand information.

What questions might I get asked?

- **Why are you giving this book to me?**
It is to help understand important information, to find out what you think and feel about it.
- **Are you saying I am stupid?**
No. Lots of us find pictures help us understand things more easily than words. It can also be very helpful for people who find reading words in English difficult.
- **Who do I speak to if I have any questions or upsetting thoughts having looked through this book?**
*It is **very** important to talk to someone. You can tell a friend or trusted person but you should also tell a member of staff so they can get you the support you need.*

What should I do if I get asked a difficult question I can't answer?

Say that you don't know the answer but that you will find someone who does. Make sure you ask a member of staff who can help. Remember that people have been let down lots of times before and they need to trust you to do what you say you will do.

How do I handle someone if they get anxious, angry or upset, having read this book?

Use a calm voice. Tell them that you can see they are feeling anxious/angry/upset. Ask if they would like to talk about what has made them feel this way. If you don't feel confident to deal with it, ask a member of staff to help.

What sort of questions should I ask as we look through the book?

Ask 'What, how, why, who' questions about the pictures, to allow the reader to talk about the story and how it makes them feel e.g. 'What is the picture showing?' 'How do you think Jed feels?' 'Why do you think Jed looks angry?' 'Who else will be feeling sad about Kate?'

What are the most likely points someone will ask me having viewed this material?

People may ask about things they have seen on the news or have heard other people talk about. They may ask how long the pandemic is going to go on for. They may ask why things are different in prisons and hospitals when life seems to be returning to normal on the 'outside'. If they ask questions, there is a [FAQ advice sheet](#) you can look through together. If you aren't sure of the FACTS then check them out. It is important not to spread fake news!

For more information about Books Beyond Words, see: www.youtube.com/booksbeyondwords