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## The Storybook Dads/Mums Scheme - Your questions answered

- *How can other prisons become involved?*

Generally this begins with an information pack and a few phone conversations. We may then visit the establishment for advice and training or a representative from the participating prison can visit Dartmoor, although this is not strictly necessary to get the scheme up and running.

- *How much does it cost to take part?*

The annual membership fee is £50 (please note this is currently under review). This helps to cover administration/CD/ink costs.

- *What does the membership include?*

In addition to the editing service, we also offer training and support in getting the project up and running; this may include providing you with templates for advertising posters, application forms and tracking sheets. You will also have access to our Storybook Dads/Mums logo for use on your literature. We will also provide hints and tips to obtain better recordings and will soon be creating a newsletter and a membership area on the website to keep all our members in touch.

- *How do we get started?*

You will need to purchase your own digital recording equipment but we can advise you on the best type to get and where to get it from. It is your responsibility to vet your prisoners for suitability.

- *Who does the recording?*

That's up to you. We will send recording tips to help get the best recording levels etc. Some prisoners do not want to read in front of anyone - however most benefit from having someone there to help and support them.

- *How do prisoners find out about it?*

At Dartmoor we put posters on the wings, library, education etc. On induction days flyers are handed out and the scheme is explained. Mostly the scheme spreads through word of mouth between the prisoners. Some prisons advertise the scheme in their prison magazine.

- *What if someone can't read very well?*

The beauty of this scheme is the editing process. All mistakes or prompting can be deleted so anyone can take part regardless of their reading ability. Even non-readers can participate: they simply have someone to help them who reads one sentence at a time which the prisoner then repeats. The helper's voice is edited out.

- *What happens next?*

The recordings are sent to Dartmoor where they are edited and enhanced using digital audio software. Mistakes are deleted and music and sound effects are added. The story is put onto a CD and returned to you for you to send out to the family (after the prisoner has listened to it).

- *How many stories can we do?*

It varies from prison to prison. Some send us three or four every week. Others send several once a month. Others may only send one occasionally. It all depends on your time and resources.

- *How can we expand the project?*

Prisoners could try writing their own story and include their children in the storyline. If there is somewhere that they can type it up, and even illustrate it, they could send out a little book with the CD. This could be incorporated into Literacy, IT and Art qualifications. The scheme can also be linked to parenting courses.

- *What's the next step?*

Get in touch with us by phone or email and we can arrange your membership and provide the necessary information for you to get started.