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Resources on the LCP CD

The **LCP CD for Foundation Stage Literacy** contains 13 PowerPoint presentations to support and extend the activity resources in this file. There are 11 themed presentations that link to the themes in the planning guide and to the role play activities. The other PowerPoints consist of a range of tongue twisters and a guide to using prompt cards (referred to as cue cards) to support children when they are telling stories or recounting events. In addition to using the presentations to introduce or extend a theme or role play, the photographic images on the PowerPoints can be used for a range of activities that require interesting and stimulating visual props, for example 'Washing line stories' and 'Philosophy for children'.

Foundation Stage

Speaking and Listening File

Introduction

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Foreword from the author

Amid all the attention given to phonics, it seems that speaking and listening and responding may have become skills which are only valued as secondary. We need to put the excitement back into speaking and listening by valuing what our children say. We should give children every possible stimulus to encourage them to put into words their thoughts about the world in which they live.

Young children's most important teachers are their parents and carers in the home: as practitioners, we join them in the process of helping their children to learn. In some cases we will need to give extra help and support, encouraging families in their role as active participants in their children's learning ... because we cannot do this job alone!

About the author

Marilyn Bowles has enjoyed a lifetime's experience of working with young children from being the eldest of six brothers and sisters to being an Advanced Skills Teacher in the Early Years for Leicester City. Her interest in creative teaching and learning in the early years and supporting colleagues has led to her writing and publishing many education books on topics such as using persona dolls regularly in the classroom for exploring diversity, establishing 'Philosophy for children' as a regular means of encouraging thinking skills, and creative ways of teaching religious education.



She is also passionate about play-based, child-initiated learning, learning to read using picture books, parental involvement in their children's education and the importance of the outdoor classroom. Marilyn is concerned that although we are living longer, childhood appears to be getting shorter and her teaching focuses on what children really need: lots of opportunities for exploring and talking. As an Advanced Skills Teacher she has been able to share these enthusiasms with a wide range of colleagues on a regular basis.

Introduction

Literacy at Foundation Stage

This *Literacy Resource File for the Foundation Stage* (ages 3–5) focuses on **speaking, listening** and **responding** as the main approach to teaching and developing early literacy skills. All of the material is fully in line with recommendations in the Rose Review and the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile which came into force in September 2008.

‘The indications are that far more attention needs to be given, right from the start, to promoting speaking and listening skills to make sure that children build a good stock of words, learn to listen attentively and speak clearly and confidently. Speaking and listening, together with reading and writing, are prime communication skills that are central to children’s intellectual, social and emotional development.’

Rose Review, 2006

‘Primary schools must continue to give priority to literacy and numeracy, whilst making sure that serious attention is paid to developing spoken language intensively as an attribute in its own right and essential to the development of reading and writing. In so doing, attention should be given to building the vocabulary which is germane to each subject and area of learning, and realising the potential of the visual and performing arts, especially role play and drama for young people’s development.’

From Jim Rose’s Independent Review of the Primary Curriculum, Recommendation 7, December 2008

This file offers a whole collection of innovative strategies and fun activities including role play, games, philosophy for children, songs and stories, which settings can use flexibly to encourage the maximum development of children’s literacy skills. As well as activities and approaches, this file sets out a practical vision for how to create and equip a speaking and listening timetable in your setting. It also provides lots of creative ideas for involving parents and carers in children’s learning.

The file is arranged into 10 activities sections:

- Role play
- Speaking and listening games
- Stories and books
- Songs, rhymes and poems
- Musical activities
- Circle time
- Philosophy for children
- Persona dolls
- More activities
- Involving parents

Each section contains an abundance of ideas that can be used in your daily planning to extend children’s experience of the quality thinking and shared talking opportunities which are vital to their progress. By using these activities and involving parents you can ensure that a firm basis of communication skills is created for further exploration of literacy and language.