



Resource Review

“Speaky: Speaking Skills For Schools”

Kingsland CE Primary School, Herefordshire

Resource Overview

The “Speaky: Speaking Skills For Schools” is a classroom resource developed by The Oracy Hub to improve Key Stage 2 and 3 student’s Confidence and Communication Skills. The resource comprises 14 short videos to be shown to the class together with 6 Teacher Training Videos and six lesson plans with details of attendant class exercises.

About the Pupil Participants

We have carried out this programme with Y5/6 children in a class of 32 children. There are numerous children with SEN in the class, including ADHD, ASD, Dyslexia and MLD. A majority of the children are working at the expected standard for their year group in English writing and reading, but many lacked confidence speaking in class and especially to an audience. Despite our writing attainment being in line with national results, writing progress was negative for this cohort. We firmly believe that the ability to verbalise complex sentences, explain themselves clearly and extend their arguments and opinions, helps children write in a more mature style and with greater depth and fluency. For this reason, we decided to continue with the Speaky programme which we had trialled the previous year for this cohort of children.

About the Assessments and Assessment Results

We have carried out informal assessments with the children using the national curriculum criteria for the spoken word element of English at the end of KS2. This has been in the form of observations from class teacher and two classroom assistants during normal lessons and Speaky activities. We use the Speaky format to guide our observations and comments. The children give feedback orally according to the Speaky FHEV mnemonic. A majority of the children have expressed a positive impact on their confidence speaking out loud and adults have all noted that all children now contribute more in everyday lessons. Short, sharp bursts of Speaky type activities in lessons across the curriculum help reinforce these skills and make it part of everyday expectations and activities.

Lead Teacher Resource Review

I have found that Speaky has helped all children to build confidence when speaking aloud in everyday contexts in the classroom. The resources are easy to use and the light-hearted, child- friendly approach and graphics help make the videos accessible to all.

I have found that once you are familiar with the videos and activities it is easy to ‘pick and choose’ what suits the children you are working with and which activities are more useful than others. I rarely

do a whole session at a time, but as previously mentioned, tend to run short, sharp sessions within other lessons and this works well for me and my class and helps make it feel less formal and 'intimidating' for those who lack confidence. I do encourage all children to speak in every session though, which isn't specified in the resources.

I love the flexibility of this programme and the way it helps build confidence in the children. The children always look forward to our sessions and many even ask if they can 'present' something to the class. Some children even spoke in front of a group of visiting teachers on a twilight session about implementing Speaky in schools and were happy to do so. We shall be continuing to implement the Speaky programme in the future and begin using it in Y4 and 5 too.

Beth Pritchard - English Lead NPQSL

About the School

Ofsted Grade 1

This is a small village school. Nearly all of the pupils are White British. The proportion of them with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is slightly lower than the national average, as is the proportion known to be eligible for free school meals. The attainment of children starting school is broadly in line with that expected for their age.