

Talking Partners



Talking Partners is a structured oral language programme, providing part of an integrated approach to raise levels of attainment. Talking Partners can be used with equal success in a variety of contexts including with EAL pupils and pupils with SLCN.

- Talking Partners improves pupils' speaking and listening skills.
- Talking Partners draws particular attention to the links between oracy and literacy.
- Talking Partners offers training to adults in schools to work with pupils, aged 4-11, helping them to become more confident and competent users of English. A teacher is appointed as the school co-coordinator and s/he will also be trained in the programme.

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Standardised assessment of productive language shows average gains of over a year after a ten week programme. Pupils are able to participate more fully in the classroom.

The success also shows increased control over structure and form in writing.

What do Talking Partners do?

- Trained Partners work with groups of three pupils for twenty five minutes, three times a week for ten weeks.
- Partners work with pupils so that they learn how to listen more actively and how to talk for a range of purposes.
- Partners use activities that have been specifically designed to support the development of oral language skills required for academic success.

What does the training include?

The one day training includes:

- **Observation** of TP session
- **Discussion** and analysis of how pupils learn
- **Opportunity** to try the range of activities in the programme
- **How to plan** the activities and find the resources
- **How to record** pupils' progress

What Liverpool staff say about Talking Partners...



'The best course I have been on in years. I was really looking forward to it. I feel really enthused and excited about implementing Talking Partners in school.'

(Acting Headteacher)

'An extremely well run and well resourced course'

(Course Participant)

'Ideas about barrier games excellent, feel confident I could achieve results.' **(Teaching Assistant)**

'A realistic strategy that can be put into practice.'

(Class Teacher)

'The course came across as a complete package and every aspect was useful.' **(Class Teacher)**

What OFSTED says about Talking Partners in Liverpool...

'The excellent use of 'Talking Partner' strategies and materials for developing pupils speaking and listening skills contribute significantly towards the very good progress made by pupils in learning to speak English.'

'Pupils make rapid progress in acquiring oracy skills due to the highly structured sessions.'

'Talking Partners raises children's confidence and self-esteem.'



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