Bradford’s
Language for Learning
Strategy

Information Booklet
2012-13
Language for Learning .... what is it?

Definition of LfL
Language for Learning is a range of programmes, training and initiatives which are talk and language focused. Some are aimed at improving specific literacy skills e.g. Talk for Writing and Talk for Reading, others are focused on improving the quality of learning dialogue in the classroom in all subjects e.g. Talk for Learning. The development of language and communication skills in our society is more important than ever before, with employers’ organisations demanding that a higher priority be placed by schools and the government on speaking, communication and presentation skills. Research tells us again and again that vocabulary is the main reason for academic failure. Children across our district require skilful, clear and specific teaching of these critical skills, especially in the understanding and use of language structures, vocabulary and talk skills, if they are to succeed both in their learning and their lives. The Language for Learning 2012 strategy is a way of developing this essential school improvement work in your school.

LfL in 2012
The Language for Learning 2012 strategy has been developed and is led by a group of headteachers and senior managers in schools across the district who have experienced the impact that a clear focus on language development and talk in their schools can have and who are committed to working collaboratively to extend work in this area. The LfL 2012 strategy emerged from an initial project in 2008-10 and further work in 2011-12 undertaken by Education Bradford.

Talk for Learning: a CPD programme which can dramatically change classroom teaching and interactions; introduces Robin Alexander’s ‘dialogic learning’ and increases the amount of opportunities for children to learn through talk.

Powerful Drama: training on using drama techniques to support language development, writing and learning across the curriculum

Talk for Writing: a national training programme developed by Pie Corbett, focusing on using talk to support the whole of the writing process.

Supporting Parents: - Talking Families: a training programme developed by Education Works for adults in school working with parents. - Family Storytelling: using T4W with families - Talking to each other: an integrated approach from Westminster Primary

Early Years Language Development:
- Rhyming and Singing: training to support this critical early phase of talking and reading
- Adult-Child Interactions: a short training programme developed by speech and language specialists to support early language development.

Philosophy for Children: training to support a whole school introduction of the P4C strategy. The P4C approach works particularly well with Talk for Learning.
Aims of the 2012 LfL strategy:

- To make a difference to children’s language opportunities earlier in their lives
- To bring together good practice across the city, especially related to the initial years of the Language for Learning work
- To look at innovative practice which will inspire the work relating to Language for Learning across the city
- To celebrate Bradford as a city with excellent Language for Learning initiatives
- To ensure that there are city wide responses to new government initiatives
- To continue with nationally respected language experts and bring their expertise to the city.

New Strands for 2012-13

Talk for Reading: training from Judy Clark, focusing on using talk to support the development of reading skills and comprehension.

It’s only words: training developed by Jane Dallas and Carol Satterthwaite on introducing a system for teaching vocabulary for talking, reading and writing.

Grammar through Talk for Writing: national conferences from Pie Corbett [followed up at a later date by whole school / cluster training from Judy Clark / Carol Satterthwaite]

Bedtime Stories: making the most of World Book Day! Get ready for the pyjamas!

Talk for Learning through ICT: training / twilights to develop the use of ICT for dialogic learning

Exciting Sentences: training from Alan Peat on how to teach children grammar and sentence construction in a meaningful and creative way

Sustained Shared Thinking: training programme with Marion Dowling to develop Early Years’ practitioner skills in supporting children’s thinking.

See over the page for LfL Training and Events!

All of the training day events, except the conference, can be booked as whole school INSETs – send a ‘research member of staff’ to find out what’s on offer!
8th October 2012: It’s only words... Training Day led by Jane Dallas and Carol Satterthwaite
How to effectively teach vocabulary for talking, reading and writing. This training day will soon be offered nationally through the National Literacy Trust.
Target audience: Literacy Subject Managers / class teachers
Venue: Manningham Mills Community Centre,
9.00 – 3.30  Cost: £120

24th October 2012: Talk for Reading Training Day led by Judy Clark
How to develop reading skills and comprehension through talk - from an inspirational trainer.
Target audience: Literacy Subject Managers / class teachers
Venue: Manningham Mills Community Centre,
9.00 – 3.30  Cost: £120

6th November 2012: Songs and Rhymes: how to support phonological awareness skills for early reading led by Jane Dallas
Target audience: Foundation Stage and Y1 practitioners
Venue: Manningham Mills Community Centre,
1.00 – 4.00  Cost: £50

9th November 2012: LfL Market Place
LfL Taster Sessions: mini-sessions led by teachers who are using LfL strategies and who want to spread the word!
Come and find out what it’s all about!
Target audience: Headteachers, senior managers
Venue: Manningham Mills Community Centre,
9.00 – 12.00  Cost: Free

9th November 2012: LfL Manager Network Session
A series of three Network Sessions for all LfL schools. Each session will be led by Carol Satterthwaite and expert teachers and will include new input, as well as provide an opportunity for sharing resources and ideas.
First session focus: Talk for Learning / Philosophy for Children
Second session: 14th February 2013
Third Session: 12th June 2013
Target audience: LfL managers
Venue: Manningham Mills Community Centre, 1.30-4.00  Cost: Free

7th February 2013: It’s only words... Training Day led by Jane Dallas and Carol Satterthwaite
How to effectively teach vocabulary for talking, reading and writing. This training day will soon be offered nationally through the National Literacy Trust.
Target audience: Literacy Subject Managers / class teachers
Venue: Training and Innovation Centre Keighley,
9.00 – 3.30  Cost: £120

5th March: The LfL Conference
A conference to inspire, inform, celebrate and share the excellent practice across our district!
Headline speakers including Pie Corbett, [national expert and inspirational speaker], Jean Gross [Communication Champion, CBE] and teachers in Bradford schools!
Target Audience: Headteachers, senior managers
Venue: The Midland Hotel
9.00 – 3.30

20th March 2013: Exciting Sentences Training Day led by Alan Peat
How to teach grammar and sentence construction in an exciting way - from another national, inspirational trainer.
Target audience: Literacy Subject Managers / class teachers
Venue: Manningham Mills Community Centre, 9.00 – 3.30  Cost: £120

Talking Families: if your Area or school would like to arrange dates for this invaluable training programme please contact: Clare Reed on clare.reed@educationworks.org.uk

Philosophy for Children: to book training please contact Colleen Jackson, Headteacher - Marshfield Primary