

Mentor Handout 9.2

Scaffolds for pupil talk

One way of modelling effectively is to provide pupils with scaffolds to support high-quality talk. The following give some ideas. Speaking frames and substitution tables are activities designed for EAL learners but could be adapted for non-EAL learners.

Talk partners	Banned words	Sentence stems
<p>Pupil talk is a valuable way to support pupils with being able to write well later down the line. High-quality pupil talk is something that needs to be taught and practised. Using 'talk partners' in your classroom is one effective way to do this. It's likely you are already doing this to some extent because you ask pupils to 'discuss with the person sat next to you'. 'Think-pair-share' is a similar process.</p> <p>Using 'talk partners' explicitly and regularly changes the dynamics of talk in the classroom. In a traditional classroom, talk is often between teacher and pupil. This can lead to some pupils who are confident dominating talk in the classroom and leaves other pupils with an option to 'opt-out' if they feel like it.</p> <p>When you pose some questions in your next lesson, instead of expecting pupils to respond to you, use talk partners so pupils can first share their thoughts and ideas with each other.</p> <p>It is useful to mix up talk partners every few weeks so that it avoids the idea that this grouping is fixed and allows pupils to interact with others in their class.</p>	<p>One way to increase the rigour and quality of pupils' talk is to use a 'banned words' activity.</p> <p>When pupils are asked to discuss or answer questions, you should display some words that are banned in the answer. This forces pupils to reach for better words in their responses. You can also ban words from the question, which forces pupils to think more deeply about what the definition is.</p> <p>If you use this activity it's important to give pupils time to formulate their responses as you are asking them to search for new or more complex vocabulary.</p> <p>For example: What does sustainable development mean?</p> <p>Banned words:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sustainable ● Development ● Fair <p>Without banning sustainable and development, you might get pupils saying "It is development that is sustainable".</p>	<p>One time efficient and effective way to support pupils with increasing the quality of their talk is to display sentence stems for any talk activity you would like pupils to carry out.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <p>In MFL, pupils have been asked what they did over the school holidays:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pendant les vacances... ● Pour les vacances, je... ● À Pâques... ● Avec ma famille, je... <p>In literacy, pupils have been asked to discuss a book they are reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In Chapter 1... ● The character of.... ● I thought that...was going to happen in Chapter 1.... <p>In RE, pupils have been asked to discuss the existence of miracles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Some people believe in miracles, such as... ● An example of a miracle is... ● I think that...

Talk bingo	Speaking frames	Substitution tables
<p>Pupils are asked to work in pairs and each has a bingo card. On the bingo card are words and/or sentence stems that they need to utilise in their speech.</p> <p>When the pupil uses the word or sentence stem, the partner can mark it off on the bingo sheet.</p>	<p>Speaking frames provide models of sentence construction, language structures and vocabulary for EAL learners to use orally within a curriculum context.</p> <p>There are various different types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sentence starters: where learners are given the first word, or first few words, of a sentence. ● Sentence frames: where learners are provided with useful structures with gaps in for them to complete. ● Paragraph starts: can provide scaffolding for pieces of extended writing, by giving learners the first few words of each paragraph. ● Learners use a speaking frame, which provides examples of the modelled language, so they can engage purposefully in the activity. ● Pair work where an EAL learner is placed with a peer who can provide a good model of English for a purposeful speaking activity (e.g. making predictions in science). The language learning focus is made explicit through the use of a speaking frame, which ensures that talk is focused and accurate. ● Writing or speaking frames can be displayed in the form of mats, classroom posters, on the whiteboard. ● Writing or speaking frames can be presented as worksheets or on cards. ● Orally rehearse language structures with a speaking frame first, as a class, small group, or in a pair work activity, before using it to scaffold writing. <p>You can find out more about Speaking Frames here: Great Idea: Speaking and Writing Frames EAL Nexus</p>	<p>A substitution table is when a teacher provides a table giving model sentences with a range of choices for learners to select from, using a set pattern. It is a very useful scaffolding resource, which extends the speaking or writing skills of EAL learners and can be used as a reinforcement of newly acquired language. They can also be used to scaffold writing.</p> <p>Substitution tables are laid out in a grid and the learner moves from left to right, making a selection in each column in order to construct a sentence. They can be made up of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Single words ● A mixture of words and phrases ● Images ● A mixture of words and images. <p>You can learn more about substitution tables here: Great Idea: Substitution Tables EAL Nexus</p>