

School Improvement Plan (Literacy)

Baseline Data:

Oral Language; all tracker children reached an average scale score of 5 on the Drumcondra English Profiles (OL scale).

- According to the parents opinions 40% rate their child's ability to follow instructions as excellent, 42% feel their ability is very good, 17% feel it is good and 1% feel it is weak.
- With regards to turn taking in conversations, 18% of parents rank their children as excellent, 42% as very good, 34% as good and 6% as weak
- 32% of those surveys feel their child is excellent at speaking audibly, clearly and with confidence, 39% feel it is very good, 24% is good and 4% is good.
- Specific strategies/opportunities are in place to maximise cross curricular language learning and the development of oral language skills-spiral approach.
- Vocabulary is identified in different subjects that needs to be taught explicitly such as maths, frásaí, science, a new piece of reading and when brainstorming a topic.
- Children like talking to friends
- Children like talking to adults
- Children get the opportunity to talk in class
 - Children mainly speak English at home Children felt they got enough opportunities to express themselves in class. (96%)
 - Children enjoyed oral language lessons in our school (96%)
 - Children were confident to follow instructions and directions.(76%)
(77% said they would like oral language homework).

Summary of main areas requiring improvements (Vision)

- Having analysed The Drumcondra Oral Language indicators our aim is to maintain or improve the pupil's scores.
- A weakness noted following the parent's survey was the pupil's ability to speak audibly, clearly and with confidence. It is our intention going forward to improve these skills.
- We also hope to improve the children's ability to follow instructions.
- Children's range of vocabulary will be improved through incorporating the use of themes. This will be done at a whole school level.
- We need to be more specific in what oral language skills are taught and practiced.
- To improve the child's confidence in speaking out loud in the classroom setting through the use of a variety of methodologies.
- Give the children more opportunities to speak in class.
- To avail of all opportunities to promote Oral Language throughout the school. For example, to include an Oral Language aspect in every Tionol.
- To develop a whole school literacy plan.

Improvement Targets	Required Actions	Success Criteria / Measurable Outcomes	Persons Responsible	Timeframe for Actions
Target 1: To maintain or improve upon our Drumcondra Oral Language Indicator results and to increase average score from Sten 5 to Sten 6.	<p>Sample of 66 children to be selected as for initial test and scores to be compared. All teachers will test 6 children.</p>	<p>That all children will have maintained or improved upon their scores and that overall avg Sten will be 6 or higher.</p>	<p>M Kelly will prepare materials etc for testing and test will be done before Easter 2014. Class teachers will administer test as before.</p>	<p>Testing March/April 2014</p>

Target 2: To timetable Oral Language lessons and to use the Thematic Approach on a whole school basis.	<p>Themes to be agreed upon by staff and schedule to be drawn up for whole school approach.</p> <p>To gather resources related to the various themes and to pool resources as a staff.</p> <p>Oral Language Board to be created and changed monthly. Each class takes responsibility for the board for one month but all classes can contribute resources to</p>	<p>To see an overall improvement in Oral Language timetabling and to work collaboratively on themes and theme preparation etc.</p>	<p>Whole staff.</p>	<p>Themes to be agreed upon in June 2013 and to be implemented in Sept 2013. Review May 2014 to assess outcomes.</p>
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	the board throughout the month.			
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Target 3: To allocate time at each staff meeting to discussion of the success of the current months theme and to brainstorm for the next months theme as a whole staff.	To officially include time for Literacy Discussion Forum at each Staff Meeting.	To observe the building of resources, the pooling of ideas and the development of team collaboration on literacy.	Whole Staff	To be assessed informally each month and to be reviewed May 2014.
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Target 4: To develop a whole school literacy plan .	Draft Literacy Plan to be presented to staff by M Kelly at June Review and to be adapted if accepted by staff.	Ease of use and effectiveness of Whole School Plan for Literacy to be determined in academic year 2013/2014	Whole Staff	To be reviewed May 2014
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<p>Target 5: To have a whole school focus on the monthly language theme at each Tionól and to have 1 Tionól each month. Award/certificate to be put in place for oral language student of the month in each class.</p>	<p>Award/ certificate to be created for template.</p> <p>Tionól to take place monthly and to have oral language section based on current months topic/theme.</p>	<p>To observe the children’s language development and their improved confidence and competence with the oral language programme.</p> <p>To observe improvements in receptive and expressive language skills.</p>	<p>Whole Staff.</p> <p>Ms Ní Odhráin to schedule Tionól and to arrange award system to be used.</p>	<p>To be reviewed May 2014.</p>
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