



***Talk Matters!***

## **TalkPod Activity Book**

### **“Practical Speaking & Listening Activities”**

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One of the most creative outcomes of using a recording device is the instantaneous and spontaneous way it can facilitate thinking. Instead of time being wasted agonising about what to write, the spoken word can be captured quickly and reviewed through listening, rather than reading.

For young children, those for whom English is an additional language, and those struggling to become independent readers, this is especially useful. Older pupils can really be challenged by the demands of focused listening and the opportunity to compare their responses with others.

The ideas in this book are designed to be fun, flexible and thought provoking. They are quick and easy to use and require the minimum of preparation. Regular opportunities for speaking and listening will quickly impact on the oral fluency and confidence of pupils.

The activities have been designed to stimulate thinking and writing in all areas of the curriculum. They are structured in simple steps, which will enable progression and challenge and they can easily be adapted.

TalkPod enables quick recording of pupils' ideas to be done in a very simple way. Very young children can use it and it will facilitate some challenging thinking by older pupils.

Once you start using a TalkPod you will soon develop more ideas to support speaking and listening. Let the pupils experiment and enjoy the pleasure of hearing themselves speak. It will really make a difference to the development of language skills in them all.

*Lyn Johnson & Elizabeth Mynott*

# **Book Contents**

## **Activities to Support the Development of Spoken Fluency & Listening Skills**

Basic Skills  
Treasure Hunt  
Guess Who  
Giving and Following Directions  
Draw What I Say (Barrier Game)  
The Car Accident  
The Car Accident 2  
The Car Accident Map  
Preparing and Rehearsing News Reports

## **Activities to Support the Confidence with Words**

Syllables  
Sequencing and Matching  
Prepositions  
Rhyme & Reason  
Sequencing Stories  
Thought Tracking  
Hot Seating

## **Activities to Support the Development of Writing**

Building Sentences 1  
Building Sentences 2  
Understanding the Writer's Craft  
Story Making 1  
Story Making 2  
Draw a Story  
Story Sequencing

## **Activities to Enhance the Learning Environment**

Talking Displays  
Magnetic Help Walls  
Raising Self Esteem

## **Activity Resources**

Templates & Images

## **Key Skills covered in each Section**

### **Activities to support the development of Spoken Fluency & Listening Skills**

- Development of pace, intonation and pitch in verbal communication
- Listening to and following spoken instructions
- To speak with clarity and use appropriate descriptive language
- Develop an understanding of audience, purpose and form

### **Activities to support Confidence with Words**

- Learn how words are split up into syllables
- Sorting words using listening skills
- Ordering words such as: days of the week
- Matching spoken words with written words
- Select and use a range of descriptive language
- Use syntax and context correctly
- Understand rhythm, rhyme and rhyming structures in poetry
- Identify how punctuation influences interpretation
- To understand a writer's intention
- Empathise with characters

### **Activities to support the development of Writing**

- Compose and write simple and complex sentences
- Understand and use tense correctly
- Explore and identify a range of nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs
- Joining sentences together by selecting appropriate connectives
- To use exciting vocabulary
- To use talk to organise, sequence and clarify thinking, ideas and events
- Shape material and ideas to connect with the audience
- Summarise information
- Use speaking and listening to support the writing of different genre
- Retell events
- Sequencing events in chronological order
- To develop an understanding of story structure
- To explore different story beginnings and endings

### **Activities to enhance the Learning Environment**

#### **Talking Displays:**

- To use talk to bring displays to life
- To enable all children to access displays and keywords
- To enable school councils to speak directly to the school community
- To enable children to connect with their targets
- To enable children to evaluate work
- To ensure all displays are interactive Raising

#### **Self Esteem:**

- To use talk to explore choices
- To explore different view points
- To promote positive behaviour
- To develop knowledge of self