



Moorthorpe Primary School with Inclusion Resource

English

Ways to promote oracy in the classroom



English Leader – Claire Turner – September 2023

Strategies and activities

Promoting effective oracy and communication across the whole school is crucial for students' development. Here's a list of activities, strategies, and teaching techniques that you can implement:

1. **Circle Time Discussions:** Regular circle time sessions where students gather to discuss various topics, share their thoughts, and listen to their peers.
2. **Debates and Discussions:** Organise structured debates and discussions on age-appropriate topics, encouraging students to express their opinions and provide reasoning.
3. **Storytelling:** Allow students to tell stories, either from books or their own imagination, fostering creativity and language development.
4. **Show and Tell:** Provide opportunities for students to bring in an item to discuss, encouraging them to describe, explain, and answer questions.
5. **Think-Pair-Share:** Encourage students to think about a question individually, discuss it with a partner, and then share their thoughts with the whole class.
6. **Collaborative Projects:** Assign group projects where students need to work together, discuss ideas, and present their findings to the class.
7. **Role-Playing:** Engage students in role-play scenarios that require effective communication, helping them understand different perspectives.
8. **Public Speaking Practice:** Organise regular opportunities for students to practice public speaking, whether it's a short presentation or a longer speech.
9. **Classroom Debates:** Set up debates on current events or historical topics, helping students develop arguments, listen to counterarguments, and refine their communication skills.
10. **Socratic Seminars:** Facilitate student-led discussions where they ask open-ended questions and engage in deep, thoughtful conversations.
11. **Collaborative Problem-Solving:** Present real-world problems for students to solve in groups, encouraging them to communicate their solutions effectively.
12. **Listening Buddies:** Pair older and younger students as listening buddies, where they read to each other and discuss the content.
13. **Journaling and Reflection:** Incorporate reflective journaling to help students articulate their thoughts and experiences.
14. **Using Visual Aids:** Integrate visual aids like diagrams, images, and charts to help students explain complex concepts.
15. **Role Models and Guest Speakers:** Invite guest speakers from diverse backgrounds to share their experiences, inspiring students and exposing them to different communication styles.
16. **Word of the Day:** Introduce a new word daily and encourage students to use it in their conversations throughout the day.
17. **Story Circles:** Create story circles where each student contributes a sentence or a part of a story, building a collaborative narrative.
18. **Critical Listening Activities:** Play audio clips or videos for students to practice listening carefully and answering questions related to the content.
19. **Mock Interviews:** Conduct mock job interviews, encouraging students to practice speaking confidently about their skills and experiences.

20. **Communication Challenges:** Introduce challenges that require students to communicate without using verbal language, promoting non-verbal communication skills.
21. **Feedback and Peer Assessment:** Teach students to give constructive feedback to their peers, promoting active listening and effective feedback delivery.
22. **Cross-Curricular Discussions:** Incorporate discussions and oracy activities in subjects beyond English, encouraging communication in different contexts.
23. **Regular Poetry and Rhyme Time:** Explore poems and rhymes to enhance language rhythm, pronunciation, and expression.
24. **Community Engagement:** Plan activities where students interact with the local community, such as interviewing community members or presenting their work.
25. **Celebrate Diversity:** Highlight cultural diversity through activities like sharing traditional stories or celebrating cultural festivals, encouraging respectful communication.

Remember, creating a culture of effective communication takes time, consistency, and a supportive environment. By implementing these strategies and activities across the whole school, you'll be nurturing students' oracy skills and setting them up for success in various aspects of life.

Examples

Let's go through each strategy and provide examples of how they can be implemented:

1. **Circle Time Discussions:** Students gather in a circle to discuss a theme, such as "Kindness." They take turns sharing how they showed kindness that week and listen to their classmates' experiences.
2. **Debates and Discussions:** Students engage in a debate on a topic like "Should homework be abolished?" They research and present arguments for and against, fostering critical thinking and persuasive speaking.
3. **Storytelling:** Students take turns creating a collaborative story, each contributing a sentence that continues the narrative.
4. **Show and Tell:** A student brings in a favourite book and explains why they like it, discussing the characters, plot, and lessons learned.
5. **Think-Pair-Share:** The teacher asks, "What was the most interesting fact you learned from today's science lesson?" Students think about it, share their thoughts with a partner, and then share with the class.
6. **Collaborative Projects:** Students work in groups to research an animal and its habitat. They create a presentation to explain their findings and present it to the class.
7. **Role-Playing:** Students act out scenarios like ordering food at a restaurant, practicing communication skills in a real-world context.
8. **Public Speaking Practice:** Each student prepares a short speech about their favourite hobby and presents it to the class.
9. **Classroom Debates:** Students debate the topic "School uniforms: Yes or No?" They research and present arguments, while also listening to opposing viewpoints.
10. **Socratic Seminars:** Students read a short story and discuss its themes, character motivations, and moral dilemmas, guided by open-ended questions.
11. **Collaborative Problem-Solving:** In groups, students design a solution to reduce plastic waste in the school cafeteria. They present their plan to the school administration.
12. **Listening Buddies:** An older student reads a picture book to a younger buddy, and then they discuss the story and their favourite parts.
13. **Journaling and Reflection:** After a field trip, students write in their journals about what they learned and their favourite moments, promoting self-expression.
14. **Using Visual Aids:** Students create posters explaining a scientific process, such as the water cycle, using visuals and labels to enhance their explanations.
15. **Role Models and Guest Speakers:** A local author visits the school to talk about their writing journey, followed by a Q&A session where students ask questions.
16. **Word of the Day:** The word of the day is "curious." Throughout the day, students try to use the word in conversations, enhancing vocabulary.
17. **Story Circles:** Students sit in a circle and take turns adding to a story. The teacher starts with "Once upon a time," and each student contributes a sentence.
18. **Critical Listening Activities:** Students listen to an audio clip of an animal sound and try to guess the animal. They discuss their guesses and reasoning.
19. **Mock Interviews:** Students interview each other for fictional job roles, practicing speaking confidently about their qualifications.

20. **Communication Challenges:** Students work in pairs to complete a puzzle without speaking, relying on gestures and non-verbal cues.
21. **Feedback and Peer Assessment:** Students provide feedback on their classmates' written stories, focusing on positive aspects and areas for improvement.
22. **Cross-Curricular Discussions:** In history class, students discuss the impact of historical events on society, practicing communication skills in a different subject.
23. **Regular Poetry and Rhyme Time:** Students recite a fun poem together, focusing on rhythm and pronunciation.
24. **Community Engagement:** Students interview local firefighters about their jobs, then present their findings to the class.
25. **Celebrate Diversity:** During a cultural diversity week, students share stories from their families' cultural backgrounds, promoting respectful communication and understanding.

These examples illustrate how each strategy can be tailored to different contexts and subjects, fostering effective oracy and communication skills in primary school students.

Example Curriculum Debates:

1. **Should Homework be Abolished?** (English and PSHE):
 - This debate encourages students to express their opinions and develop arguments while also addressing time management and well-being.
2. **Is Recycling Important?** (Science and Geography):
 - This topic allows students to discuss environmental awareness, conservation, and the scientific principles behind recycling.
3. **Should We Ban Single-Use Plastics?** (Science and Geography):
 - Focusing on sustainability, students can explore the impact of single-use plastics on the environment and discuss potential alternatives.
4. **Do Animals Belong in Zoos?** (Science and Geography):
 - This debate covers animal behaviour, habitats, conservation, and ethical considerations related to keeping animals in captivity.
5. **Should School Uniforms be Mandatory?** (PSHE and English):
 - Students can discuss issues related to identity, conformity, and the practicality of school uniforms while improving their persuasive language skills.
6. **Is Technology Beneficial for Learning?** (Computing and PSHE):
 - This debate delves into the role of technology in education and digital literacy while addressing screen time and online safety.
7. **Should Junk Food be Banned in Schools?** (Design and Technology and PSHE):
 - This topic involves discussions about healthy eating, food production, and the impact of diet on well-being.
8. **Is Space Exploration Important?** (Science and Geography):
 - This debate explores scientific discoveries, human curiosity, and potential benefits and challenges of space exploration.
9. **Do We Need More Renewable Energy Sources?** (Science and Geography):
 - Students can discuss climate change, energy sustainability, and the importance of renewable energy sources.
10. **Should Children Have a Say in School Rules?** (PSHE and Citizenship):
 - This topic encourages students to understand democracy and civic responsibility while exploring their rights and responsibilities in school.

Games & quick, fun activities

1. **Storytelling Circle:** Sit in a circle and have each student contribute a sentence to create a collaborative story. This helps with creativity and fluency.
2. **Debate Club:** Organise age-appropriate debates on topics of interest. This encourages critical thinking and persuasive speaking.
3. **Tongue Twisters:** Challenge students with tongue twisters to improve pronunciation and enunciation skills.
4. **Picture Prompt:** Show an image and have students describe what they see. This helps develop descriptive language skills.
5. **Guess the Word:** Play a game where one student thinks of a word and gives clues while others try to guess it. This fosters vocabulary development.
6. **Interviews:** Conduct mock interviews where students take turns being the interviewer and interviewee. This improves questioning and answering skills.
7. **Word of the Day:** Introduce a new word each day and encourage students to use it in sentences throughout the day.
8. **Story Starters:** Provide students with the beginning of a story and ask them to complete it. This encourages creativity and narrative skills.
9. **News Reporter:** Assign students as news reporters and have them present news stories to the class. This enhances presentation skills.
10. **Telephone Game:** Have students sit in a line and whisper a sentence to the next person, who then whispers it to the next, and so on. See how the message changes as it goes down the line.
11. **Poetry Recitation:** Encourage students to memorise and recite poems in front of the class. This improves memory and public speaking abilities.
12. **Story Sequencing:** Provide students with jumbled sentences and ask them to arrange them into a coherent story. This builds narrative and comprehension skills.
13. **Storytime:** Regularly read aloud to the class and engage in discussions about the story. This helps with listening and comprehension skills.
14. **Word Games:** Play word games like Scrabble, Boggle, or word searches to expand vocabulary and word recognition.
15. **Show and Act:** Students pick a word from a hat and act it out without speaking while classmates guess the word. This promotes non-verbal communication.
16. **Public Speaking Challenges:** Organise occasional public speaking challenges where students can present on a topic of their choice.
17. **Discussion Circles:** Form small groups for in-depth discussions on various topics. This encourages active listening and thoughtful responses.
18. **Storytelling through Art:** Have students draw a picture and then describe it to the class, fostering creativity and storytelling skills.
19. **Word Association Challenge:** In a circle, start with a word (e.g., "apple"). The next student must say a word related to the previous one (e.g., "fruit"). Continue quickly, and if a student hesitates or repeats a word, they are out.
20. **Story in a Bag:** Place random objects in a bag. Each student takes turns pulling an object and incorporating it into a short, imaginative story.

21. **Guess the Sound:** Play various sounds (e.g., animal noises, musical instruments) without showing the source. Students take turns describing what they think made the sound.
22. **Mystery Object:** Show an object to one student and have them describe it without revealing what it is. The rest of the class tries to guess the object based on the description.
23. **Two-Word Storytelling:** Each student contributes two words to create a collaborative story. The challenge is to maintain a logical and engaging storyline.
24. **Question Circle:** Students stand in a circle, and one starts by asking a question to the person next to them. Continue the chain of questions, ensuring they're related to the previous one.
25. **Discussion Dice:** Create a dice with different discussion prompts (e.g., "If I could travel anywhere..."). Roll the dice, and each student takes a turn responding to the prompt.
26. **Consequence Chain:** Start a sentence and have the first student complete it. The next student continues the story, and so on, creating a collaborative narrative.
27. **Wordless Picture Debate:** Show a thought-provoking image to the class. Students take turns discussing what they see, their interpretations, and why they feel that way without using any written or spoken words.
28. **Would You Rather?:** Present students with a series of "Would you rather..." questions. Encourage them to explain their choices and engage in discussions with their peers.
29. **Debate Duos:** Pair students and assign them different sides of a debate topic. Allow time for them to prepare arguments and then engage in a mini-debate.
30. **Classroom Court:** Choose a simple classroom issue (e.g., "Should homework be banned?"). Assign roles as lawyers, judges, and witnesses for a mock courtroom debate.
31. **Picture Persuasion:** Display an image and have students take turns convincing the class of a particular viewpoint related to the image.
32. **Storyteller's Dilemma:** Provide students with a moral dilemma from a story and ask them to discuss and debate the best course of action.
33. **Roundtable Discussions:** Arrange students in small groups to discuss a given topic, with each student taking a turn to share their thoughts and reasoning.
34. **News Analysis:** Bring in a current event article and lead a discussion about the topic, encouraging students to express their opinions and back them up with reasons.
35. **Critical Thinking Puzzles:** Present students with riddles or brainteasers and have them work in teams to solve them, explaining their thought processes.
36. **Character Interviews:** Assign each student a character from a book they've read and have them engage in an interview-style discussion, staying in character.
37. **Persuasive Show and Tell:** Students bring an item (or concept/idea/invention) to "sell" to the class, using persuasive language and reasoning to explain why theirs is the best.
38. **Story Debate:** Read a short story and then ask students to debate the character's decisions and actions, considering alternative choices.
39. **Philosophical Prompt:** Present a philosophical question (e.g., "What is the meaning of life?") and facilitate a class discussion to explore different viewpoints.
40. **Role Reversal:** Assign students a character from history and have them debate the character's actions as if they were in their shoes.

41. **Storytelling Circle (with a Twist):** In a storytelling circle, one student starts a story and then passes it to the next student to continue. After a few sentences, stop and ask the current student to justify their narrative choice.
42. **Hypothetical Scenarios:** Present hypothetical situations and ask students to discuss how they would respond, providing reasons for their decisions.
43. **Ethical Dilemma Discussions:** Share ethical dilemmas relevant to children's lives and have students discuss the right course of action, considering the consequences.
44. **Science Debates:** Choose a scientific topic or concept, and have students take positions in a debate to support or oppose it, citing evidence and reasoning.

Moorthorpe Primary School 2023

Voice21's Principles for Oracy:

- Model Excellence:** Teachers demonstrate effective communication through their own speech and interactions.
 - **Strategy:** Use clear and varied language when speaking to students.
 - **Activity:** Model how to ask open-ended questions during lessons.
- Practice Deliberately:** Provide structured opportunities for students to practice oracy skills in a purposeful way.
 - **Strategy:** Incorporate regular discussions and debates into lessons.
 - **Game:** "Talk Tokens" - Students earn tokens for contributing thoughtful comments during discussions.
- Feedback for Improvement:** Give constructive feedback to help students refine their communication skills.
 - **Strategy:** Provide specific feedback on volume, tone, and clarity of speech.
 - **Activity:** Peer feedback sessions where students evaluate each other's presentations.
- Collaboration and Social Learning:** Create a supportive environment for students to learn from each other.
 - **Strategy:** Foster group work and collaborative projects.
 - **Game:** "Role Switch" - Students switch roles within a group to practice different speaking roles.
- Create Safe Spaces:** Build trust and confidence by creating a safe environment for students to express themselves.
 - **Strategy:** Set clear expectations for respectful listening and speaking.
 - **Activity:** "Share and Support" - Students share personal reflections and receive supportive comments.
- Extend Vocabulary and Expression:** Provide opportunities for students to expand their vocabulary and expression.
 - **Strategy:** Introduce new vocabulary words in context and encourage their use.
 - **Activity:** "Word of the Day" - Explore a new word and challenge students to incorporate it into discussions.
- Cater to All Needs:** Adapt teaching strategies to meet the needs of diverse learners.
 - **Strategy:** Provide visual aids to support verbal explanations.
 - **Technique:** Use sentence starters to help struggling students initiate conversations.
- Make Connections:** Encourage students to connect what they are learning with their personal experiences.
 - **Strategy:** Ask students to relate new concepts to real-life situations.
 - **Activity:** "Connection Circles" - Discuss how the topic relates to students' lives.
- Consider Audience and Context:** Teach students to adapt their communication for different situations.
 - **Strategy:** Discuss the differences between formal and informal language.
 - **Technique:** Role-play scenarios with varying levels of formality.
- Empower Agency and Advocacy:** Foster students' ability to express their opinions and advocate for their ideas.
 - **Strategy:** Encourage students to share their perspectives during class discussions.
 - **Activity:** "My Opinion Matters" - Students share their opinions on current issues.
- Celebrate and Value Diversity:** Create an inclusive environment that respects and values diverse perspectives.
 - **Strategy:** Explore stories and perspectives from different cultures.
 - **Activity:** "Cultural Exchange" - Students share traditions and stories from their backgrounds.

Science:

1. **Scientific Debates:**
 - Assign topics related to current science issues or concepts and have students debate their viewpoints, supporting their arguments with evidence.
2. **Scientific Charades:**
 - Students act out scientific terms, phenomena, or famous scientists while their classmates guess the word or concept.
3. **Exploration Stations:**
 - Set up various science stations with experiments or specimens.
 - Students move between stations, discussing their observations and findings with their peers.
4. **Science Inquiry Circles:**
 - Divide the class into small groups, each focusing on a specific scientific question.
 - Groups discuss their findings, hypotheses, and experiment plans, then report to the class.
5. **Science News Broadcast:**
 - Have students work in pairs or small groups to research and report on recent scientific discoveries or breakthroughs.
 - They present their findings as a news broadcast to the class.

Science Stem Sentences:

1. **Explain:** "Explain the process behind this scientific phenomenon."
2. **Describe:** "Describe the properties of this material or substance."
3. **Analyse:** "Analyse the data from this experiment and draw conclusions."
4. **Compare and Contrast:** "Compare and contrast the characteristics of these two species."
5. **Predict:** "Predict the outcome of this scientific investigation based on your observations."
6. **Question:** "Question the variables that might affect this scientific experiment."
7. **Discuss:** "Discuss the implications of this scientific discovery on our daily lives."
8. **Hypothesize:** "Hypothesize why this reaction occurred in the way it did."
9. **Explore:** "Explore the applications of this scientific concept in the real world."
10. **Imagine:** "Imagine what would happen if we changed a variable in this experiment."
11. **Evaluate:** "Evaluate the effectiveness of this scientific model or theory."
12. **Investigate:** "Investigate the factors that contribute to this natural phenomenon."
13. **Summarise:** "Summarise the main findings of this scientific study."
14. **Propose:** "Propose a solution to an environmental issue using scientific principles."
15. **Suggest:** "Suggest ways to improve this scientific experiment or method."
16. **Contrast:** "Contrast the advantages and disadvantages of using this technology."
17. **Interpret:** "Interpret the results of this scientific survey or poll."
18. **Reflect:** "Reflect on the ethical considerations of this scientific advancement."
19. **Debate:** "Debate the potential ethical dilemmas associated with this scientific innovation."
20. **Analyse Cause and Effect:** "Analyse the cause-and-effect relationship in this scientific scenario."

Geography:

- Geographical Scavenger Hunt:**
 - Provide students with a list of geographical items or locations to find within the school or local area.
 - Afterward, they discuss what they discovered and why each item is significant.
- Map Exploration:**
 - Give students maps and ask them to explore and discuss what they find, such as landmarks, geographic features, and population density.
- Country Presentations:**
 - Assign each student or group a different country to research and present to the class, discussing its geography, culture, and interesting facts.
- Geographical Quiz:**
 - Create a quiz with geography-related questions, and have students take turns asking and answering questions, promoting discussion and knowledge sharing.
- Geographical Interviews:**
 - Students take on the roles of famous explorers, geographers, or even local residents, and conduct interviews with their peers as if they were the subjects.
- Geographical News Report:**
 - Have students work in groups to research and present geographical news reports on topics such as natural disasters, environmental issues, or cultural events.

Geographical Stem Sentences:

- Describe:** "Describe the geographical features of..."
- Explain:** "Explain why this landscape looks the way it does."
- Compare and Contrast:** "Compare and contrast the climates of these two regions."
- Predict:** "Predict how climate change might impact this ecosystem."
- Analyse:** "Analyse the impact of human activity on this environment."
- Hypothesize:** "Hypothesize what would happen if this river changed its course."
- Evaluate:** "Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of living near a coastline."
- Interpret:** "Interpret the data on this weather map."
- Justify:** "Justify why this city is located where it is."
- Summarise:** "Summarise the main points of this geographical study."
- Investigate:** "Investigate the causes of this natural disaster."
- Discuss:** "Discuss the importance of preserving biodiversity."
- Infer:** "Infer what historical events may have shaped this landscape."
- Question:** "Question how climate change affects local communities."
- Propose:** "Propose a solution to address the challenges of urbanization."
- Reflect:** "Reflect on what you've learned about this cultural practice."
- Suggest:** "Suggest ways to reduce the impact of pollution on this river."
- Debate:** "Debate whether tourism has a positive or negative impact on this area."
- Explore:** "Explore the connections between geography and human culture."
- Imagine:** "Imagine what it would be like to live in a different geographical region."

History:

1. **Time Travellers' Dilemma:**
 - Present students with a historical dilemma or decision and ask them to discuss what they would do if they were time travellers in that era.
2. **Historical Role-Play/Let's Say:**
 - Assign students historical roles and have them act out scenes or dialogues from that time period, exploring different perspectives.
3. **Historical Interviews:**
 - Students research historical figures and conduct interviews as if they were interviewing those figures, fostering research and presentation skills.
4. **Historical Artefact Mystery:**
 - Display historical artefacts or replicas and ask students to discuss their possible uses, origins, and significance, encouraging critical thinking.
5. **Historical Travelogue:**
 - Have students create travel brochures or presentations about a historical location, explaining its historical importance and attractions.
6. **Historical News Report:**
 - Students work in groups to research and present historical news reports on significant events, discussing the impact and consequences.

Historical Stem Sentences:

1. **Analyse:** "Analyse the significance of this historical event."
2. **Explain:** "Explain why this historical figure is important in history."
3. **Compare and Contrast:** "Compare and contrast the lives of people during different historical periods."
4. **Interpret:** "Interpret the motives behind this historical decision."
5. **Imagine:** "Imagine how life was different during this historical era."
6. **Question:** "Question the impact of this historical event on society."
7. **Discuss:** "Discuss the consequences of this historical conflict."
8. **Debate:** "Debate whether this historical figure was a hero or a villain."
9. **Hypothesize:** "Hypothesize what might have happened if this historical event had a different outcome."
10. **Reflect:** "Reflect on the lessons we can learn from this historical period."
11. **Investigate:** "Investigate the causes of this historical revolution."
12. **Summarise:** "Summarise the key events of this historical timeline."
13. **Propose:** "Propose a solution to a historical problem faced by people at that time."
14. **Evaluate:** "Evaluate the impact of inventions from this historical era on modern life."
15. **Suggest:** "Suggest reasons why this historical document is significant."
16. **Analyse Perspectives:** "Analyse different historical perspectives on this event."
17. **Explore:** "Explore the connections between historical events and social changes."
18. **Contrast:** "Contrast the daily life of people in different historical periods."
19. **Imagine as a Witness:** "Imagine you were a witness to this historical event and describe what you saw."
20. **Evaluate Historical Sources:** "Evaluate the reliability of historical sources related to this topic."