Literacy in a broad and balanced curriculum: How can research inform practice?

INTO Consultative Conference on Education - 2019

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Acknowledgments



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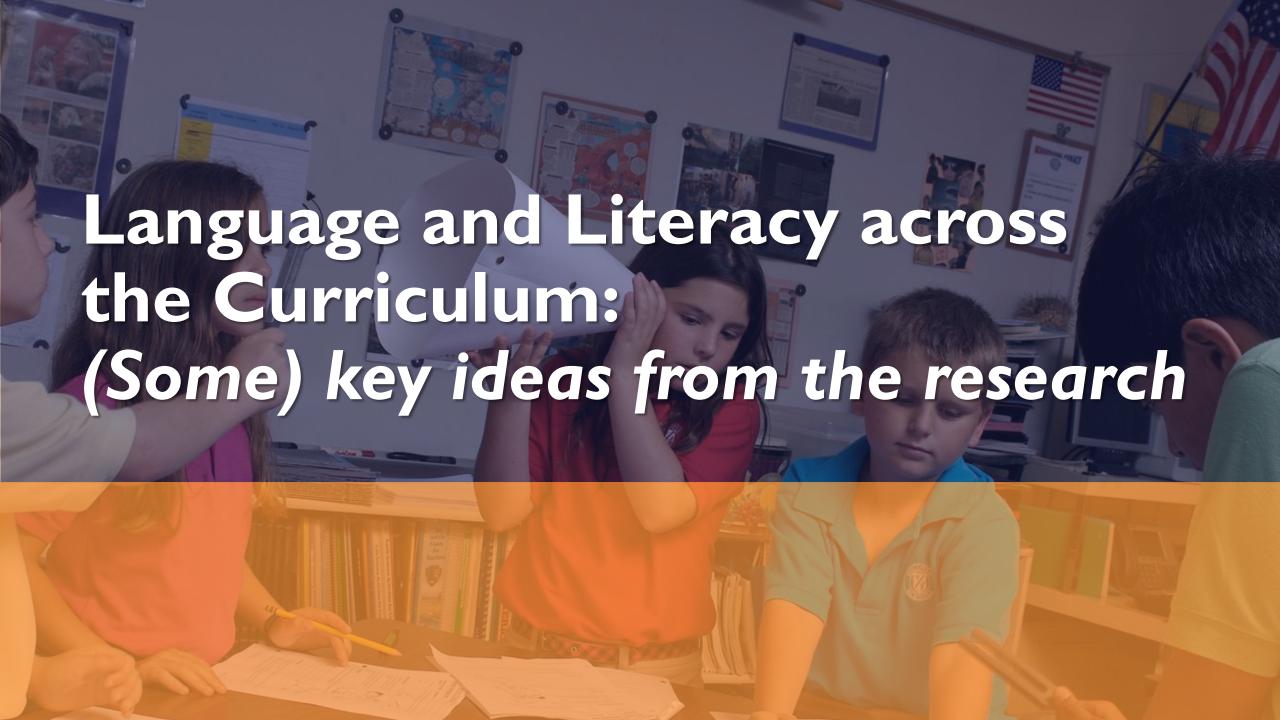
Outline of Session

- I. Key ideas from the research on language and literacy in the curriculum
- 2. The Primary Language Curriculum practical guidance on implementing LOs through other subjects
- 3. Language/literacy in the review of the *Primary School Curriculum* potential directions

Resources on Padlet

bit.ly/2rISJfv

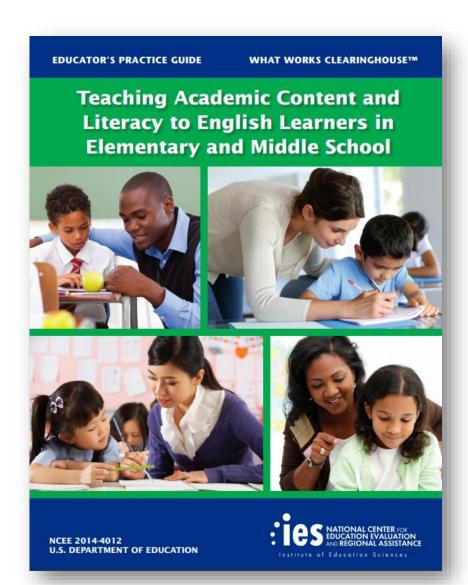




Key Idea from the Research

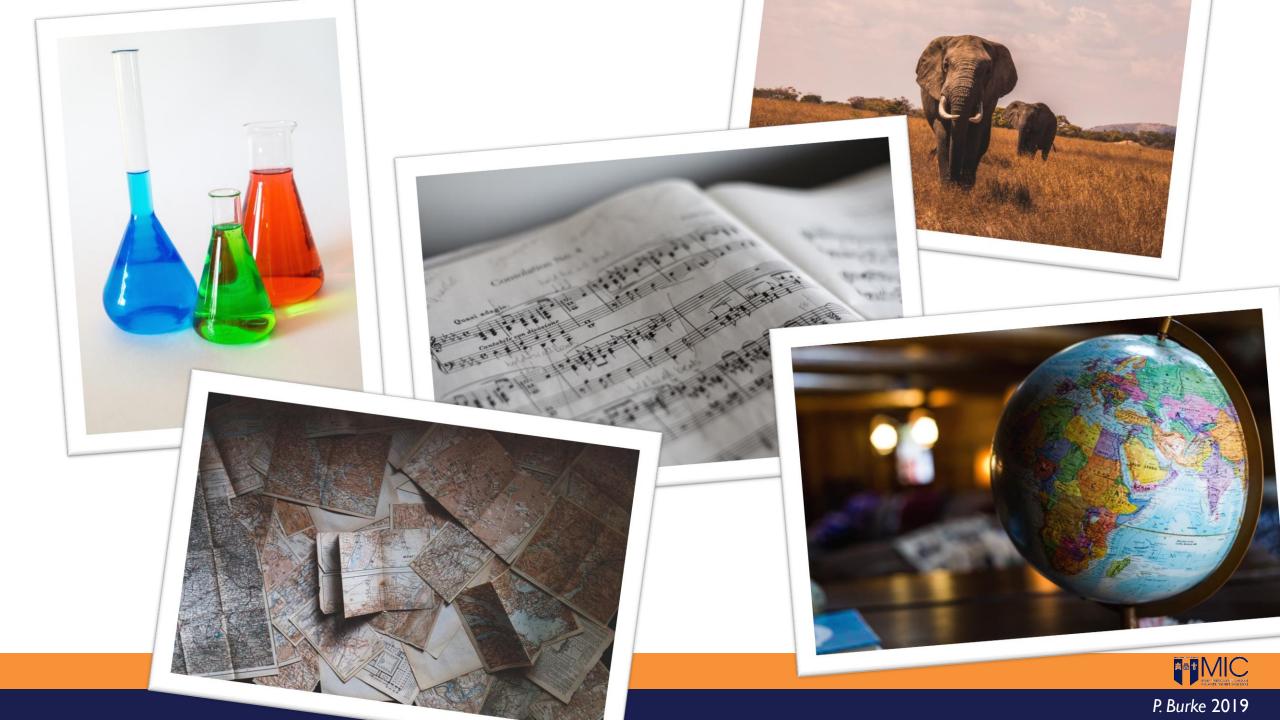
We need to attend to academic language

- School tends to rely on a particular type of linguistic register (Schleppegrell, 2004; Cregan 2008)
- We should support children in accessing academic language (rather than circumventing it)
- Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency (CALP – Cummins, 1979)



Baker et al., 2014

- I. Teach academic vocabulary across several days using a variety of activities
- 2. Integrate oral language/writing into subjects
- 3. Provide structured opportunities for writing
- 4. Provide small-group instruction for children in most need



Key Idea from the Research #2

Background knowledge is important for literacy development

- Comprehension is dependent on background knowledge (e.g. Willingham, 2017)
- Knowledge is built through a broad curriculum with learning from different subjects/areas

(not through, for example, phonics activities)



Language Comprehension Background Knowledge (facts, concepts, and so on) Vocabulary (breadth, precision, links, and so on) Language Structures (syntax, semantics, and so on) Verbal Reasoning (inference, metaphor, and so on) Literacy Knowledge (print concepts, genres, and so on)

Word Recognition

Phonological Awareness (syllables, phonemes, and so on)

Decoding (alphabetic principle, spelling-sound correspondences)

Sight Recognition (familiar words)

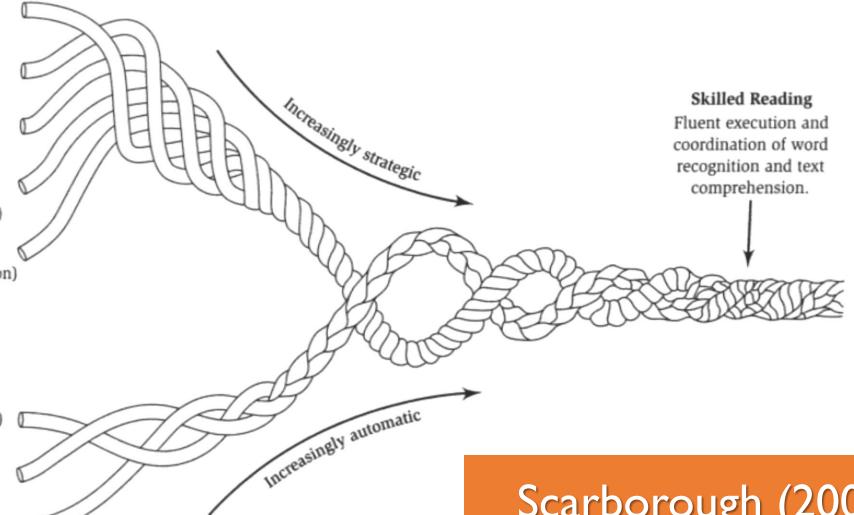


Figure 2.1. The Many Strands That Are Woven into Skilled Reading *Source:* Scarborough, 2001.

Scarborough (2001) "Reading Rope"

The procedure is actually quite simple. First you arrange things into different groups. Of course, one pile may be sufficient depending on how much there is to do. If you have to go somewhere else due to lack of facilities that is the next step, otherwise you are pretty well set. It is important not to overdo things. That is, it is better to do too few things at once than too many. In the short run this may not seem important but complications can easily arise. A mistake can be expensive as well. At first the whole procedure will seem complicated. Soon, however, it will become just another facet of life. It is difficult to foresee any end to the necessity for this task in the immediate future, but then one never can tell. After the procedure is completed one arranges the materials into different groups again. Then they can be put into their appropriate places. Eventually they will be used once more and the whole cycle will then have to be repeated. However, that is part of life.

Bradford and Johnson (1972)

- I. Tell your partner three steps involved in the process.
- 2. How should the materials be arranged? Why?

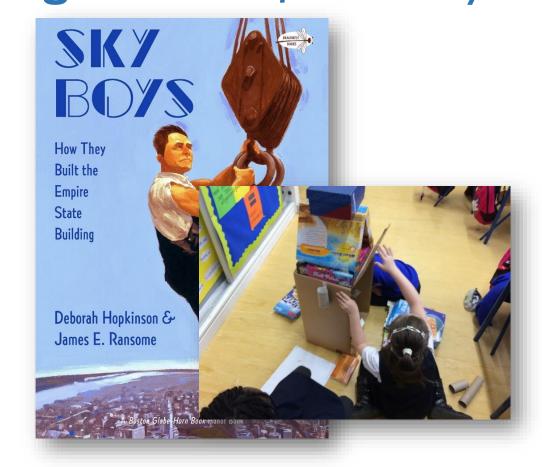
Doing the laundry

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Bradford and Johnson (1972)

Key Idea from the Research #3 Other subjects offer a motivating context for literacy

- Teaching literacy skills in the context of other subjects has been found to be effective in the most robust research on reading motivation
- Concept-Oriented Reading Instruction is a clear example of this (Guthrie et al., 1998, 2004).
- There is research evidence to support **project-based** literacy teaching (Halvorsen et al., 2018)



To sum up (so far)

The research is clear* that:

- I: Academic language needs to be supported in different subjects
- 2: Developing knowledge through a broad curriculum **supports** literacy achievement
- •3: Learning in other subjects can provide a motivating context for literacy development
- *Insofar as it can be (!)

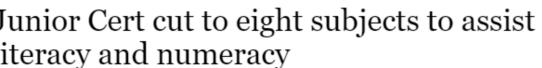
LITERACY AND NUMERACY FOR LEARNING AND LIFE The National Strategy to Improve Literacy and Numeracy among Children and Young People 2011-2020

THE IRISH TIMES

Thu. Nov 14, 2019



Junior Cert cut to eight subjects to assist literacy and numeracy





Editor's Choice













THE IRISH TIMES

Education) Student Hub | 2nd Level Hub | Parents

Thu. Nov 14, 2019



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THE IRISH TIMES **The Revolution Files** Find out more

'We need to review the time spent on certain subjects'

O Tue. Dec 18, 2012, 00:00

RUAIRI QUINN



Open Days Open Days: Choosing your course? Do your nomework first

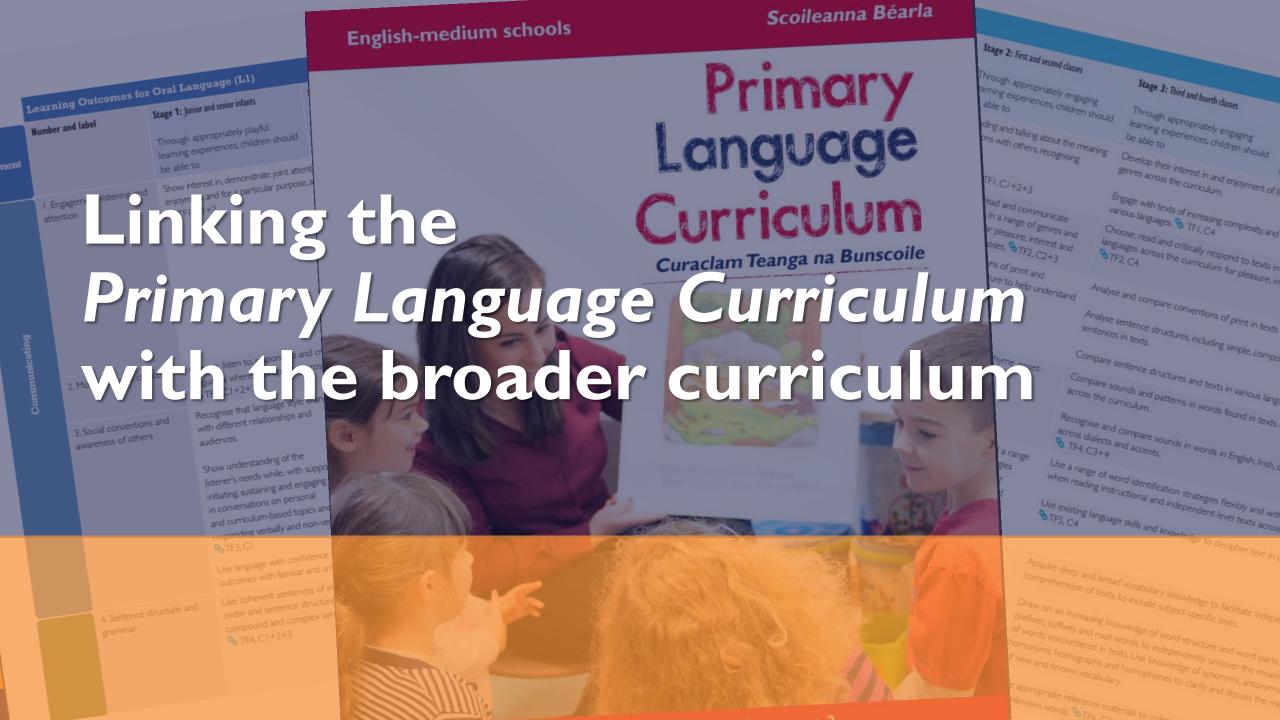


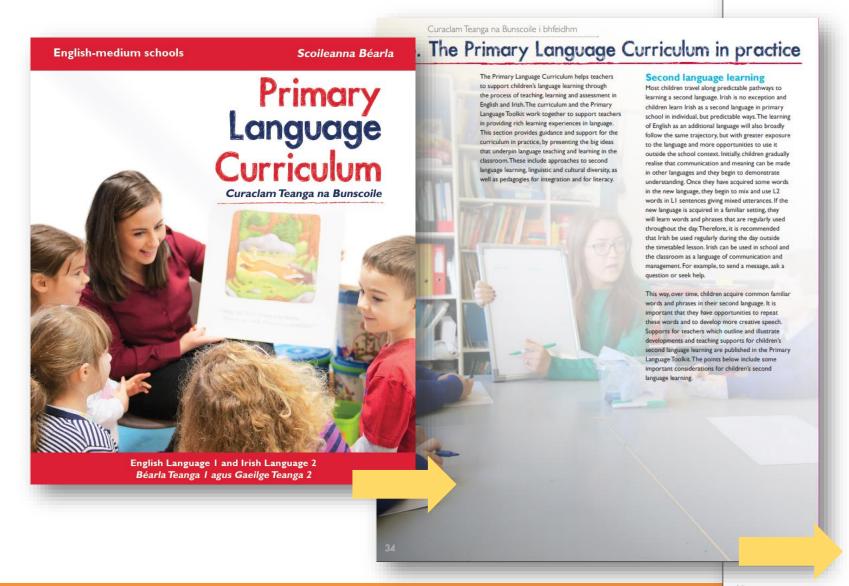
second, fourth and sixth class d about how their children also be sent to school boards n to establish national

time spent on literacy study

se from 36 minutes to 50

t rather than 10 subjects as part of a radical strategy





Cross-curricular and disciplinary literacy

Learning, language and literacy are closely intertwined. The tools provided by language support learning in a way that extends across and beyond the school day. Looking across the curriculum, we can see that important concepts, dispositions and skills influence how we communicate in different subjects. For example, explaining a food chain in science requires vocabulary and language structures that are quite different to those used to describe the elements present in a musical composition. The texts we associate with the visual arts can be contrasted with the print-based text structures children might encounter in a novel. Comprehending a primary source in history requires skills that are different to those needed to appreciate a poem.

Disciplines communicate in different ways. Teaching language and literacy throughout the curriculum, in a manner that supports thinking and learning in different subjects, is termed disciplinary literacy. Learning in other curriculum areas offers rich potential for the meaningful and critical application of language and literacy skills. Engaging children in inquiry in another subject gives an authentic context for development in oral language, reading and writing. Planning for, and teaching language in this way supports both linguistic development and understanding of a discipline. The Primary Language Curriculum encourages the integration of language and subject-based learning across the school day, week and year.

Litearthacht trasna an churaclaim agus litearthacht disciplín

Tá dlúthbhaint ag foghlaim, teanga agus litearthacht lena chéile. Na huirlisí a chuireann teanga ar fáil. tacaíonn siad leis an bhfoghlaim an lá scoile ar fad agus ina dhiaidh. Ach féachaint ar an gcuraclam ar fad, feicfimid go dtéann coincheapa, meonta agus scileanna tábhachtacha i bhfeidhm ar an gcaoi a ndéanaimid cumarsáid in ábhair éagsúla. Mar shampla, ní hionann an stór focal agus na struchtúir teanga a theastaíonn chun biashlabhra a mhíniú san eolaíocht agus iad siúd a theastaíonn chun cur síos a dhéanamh ar na gnéithe a bhaineann le píosa ceoil. Is féidir codarsnacht a dhéanamh idir na téacsanna a bhaineann leis na hamharc-ealaíona agus na struchtúir téacs chlóbhunaithe a bhíonn le fáil in úrscéal. Ní hionann na scileanna a theastaíonn chun foinse phríomha a thuiscint sa stair agus na scileanna a theastaíonn le go mbeadh tuiscint agat do dhán.

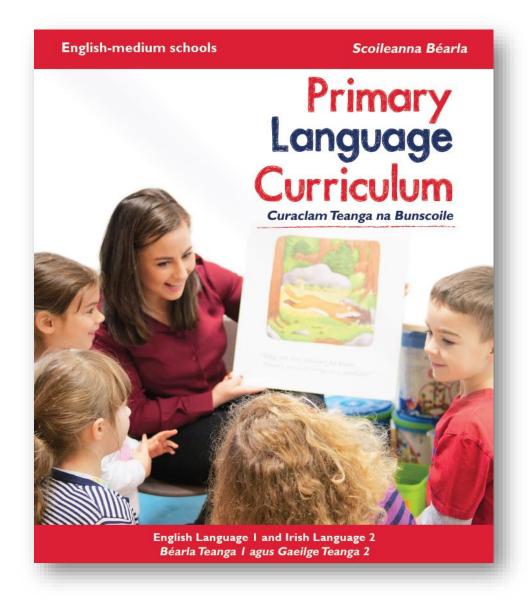
Déanann disciplíní difriúla cumarsáid ar bhealaí difriúla. Litearthacht disciplín, nó inniúlacht disciplín, a thugtar ar theanga agus litearthacht a theagasc ar fud an churaclaim ar bhealach a thacaíonn le smaointeoireacht agus le foghlaim in ábhair éagsúla. Cuireann an fhoghlaim i réimsí eile den churaclam deis den scoth ar fáil chun scileanna teanga agus litearthachta a chur i bhfeidhm le lánbhrí agus go criticiúil. Má bhíonn páistí i mbun fiosrúcháin in ábhar eile, cuireann sé sin fíorchomhthéacs ar fáil chun an teanga ó bhéal, an léitheoireacht agus an scríbhneoireacht a fhorbairt. Ach pleanáil le haghaidh teanga, agus í a theagasc, ar an gcaoi seo, tacaítear le forbairt teangeolaíochta agus le tuiscint ar dhisciplín. Cothaíonn Curaclam Teanga na Bunscoile comhtháthú idir foghlaim teanga agus foghlaim atá bunaithe ar árbhar an lá scoile, an tseachtain scoile agus an bhliain scoile ar fad.

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Cross-curricular and disciplinary literacy

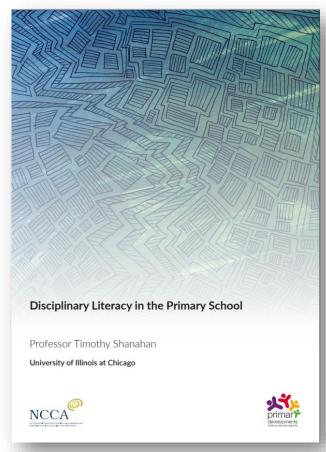
"Looking across the curriculum, we can see that important concepts, dispositions and skills influence how we communicate in different subjects."

"Teaching language and literacy throughout the curriculum, in a manner that supports thinking and learning in different subjects, is termed disciplinary literacy."



What is disciplinary literacy?

Disciplinary literacy refers to the specialised ways reading, writing, and oral language are used in academic disciplines such as science, history, or literature.



Shanahan (2019, p.1)

Focus on one LO from each strand

- •Oral Language
- Reading
- Writing

Learning Outcomes for Oral Language (L1)

3. Social conventions and awareness of others

Recognise that language style changes with different relationships and audiences.

Show understanding of the listener's needs while, with support, initiating, sustaining and engaging in conversations on personal and curriculum-based topics and responding verbally and non-verbally.

Use language appropriately in order to initiate, sustain and engage in conversations on personal and curriculum-based topics and use a language style and tone suited to the audience. TF3, C2

Use language flexibly and with empathy while initiating, sustaining and engaging in conversations on personal and curriculum-based topics.

♦TF3, C3

Adapt language style such as tone, pace, choice of vocabulary, gestures, facial expressions and body language for a range of audiences whilst communicating orally in a range of genres. \$TF3, C4

Explore how culture and identity can influence how people communicate with others, verbally and non-verbally.

Listen and speak with increasing confidence, independence and skill in order to work collaboratively with others and to share feedback, ideas, decisions and outcomes in a range of contexts with familiar and unfamiliar audiences.

Use language with confidence to work collaboratively with others and share outcomes with familiar and unfamiliar audiences. $\ref{thm:prop}$ TF3, C1+2

Listen and speak with increasing confidence, independence and skill in order to work collaboratively with others and share feedback, ideas, decisions and outcomes in a range of context with familiar and unfamiliar audiences.

What does the research say?

- Talk is important for learning across the curriculum
- "Dialogic teaching harnesses the power of talk to stimulate and extend students' thinking and advance their learning and understanding" (Alexander, n.d.)
- Jay et al. 2017 ran a large-scale evaluation of the impact of dialogic teaching (and associated professional development) in 76 schools in the UK
- Significant impact on learning in English, Maths and Science

Accountable Talk

(Resnick, Asterhan, & Clarke, 2018; Resnick, Michaels, & O'Connor, 2010)

- Accountability to knowledge: Ensuring there are fact-based reasons to support an argument
- Accountability to reasoning: Ensuring that a well thought-out line of thinking supports an argument
- Accountability to community: Ensuring that respect is shown to other students' and their contributions

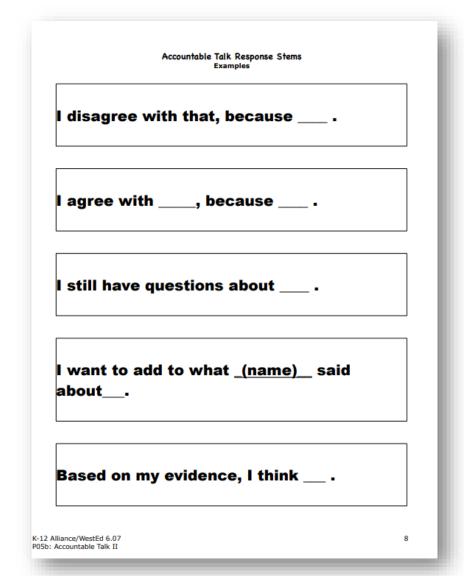


Accountable Talk Toolkit



The Accountable Talk Toolkit provides resources for implementation, including what it looks like in the classroom, lesson examples, and scaffolds. The Toolkit entries come from a variety of sources, e.g., internet and teachers who use Accountable Talk in their classrooms.

K-12 Alliance/WestEd 6.07 P05b: Accountable Talk II



	2.
3.	4.
5.	6.
7.	8.

I disagree with that, because ____.

I agree with _____, because .

I still have questions about ____.

I want to add to what said about .

1.	2.
There are aliens out there!	There should be two hours break
	time so that we can get exercise
	during the day.
3.	4.
Zoos should be banned.	School should be replaced with
	learning from a computer.
5.	6.
Sugary foods should be banned	We shouldn't worry too much
completely.	about climate change - everybody
	wants warmer weather!
7.	8.
Technology is bad for us.	Driverless cars are a good idea.

I disagree with that, because . I agree with _____, because I still have questions about I want to add to what said about .

Making this work

- Modelling
- Anchor charts
- Practice
- Teacher taking a step back
- Choosing topics worth talking about
 - Reporting v. arguing



Focus on one LO from each strand

- •Oral Language √
- Reading
- Writing

Learning Outcomes for Reading (L1)

9. Comprehension

Recall, discuss and sequence significant details and identify key points of information in text. § TF9, C1+2

Draw on background knowledge as well as a range of comprehension strategies to engage with and create meaning when working with a range of texts independently or collaboratively. § TF9, C2

Draw on a repertoire of comprehension strategies and background knowledge to comprehend text independently or collaboratively. TF9, C3+4

Compare and select comprehension strategies flexibly and interchangeably and use background knowledge to engage with text in a variety of genres independently or collaboratively.

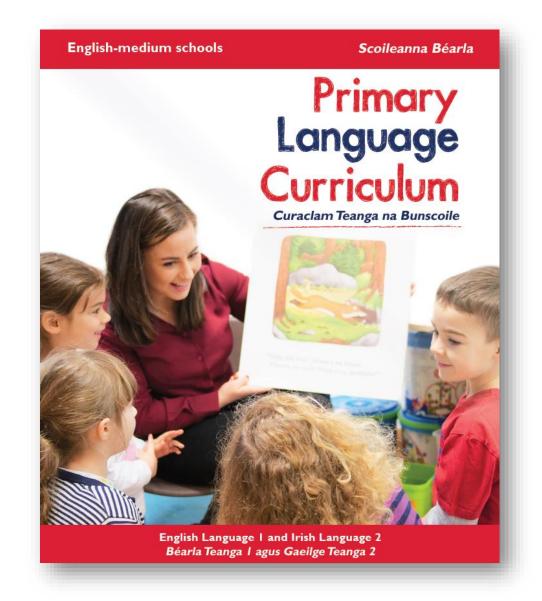
Choose, justify, and apply comprehension strategies to engage with text in a variety of genres across the curriculum, independently or collaboratively, and continue to draw on background knowledge.

Compare and synthesize information, thoughts, and ideas from a variety of text sources.

Compare and synthesize information, thoughts, and ideas from a variety of text sources.

Text includes...

... all products of language use: oral, gesture, sign, written, Braille, visual, tactile, electronic and digital.



TEXT #I
Source:
ESB, 1955



EVENING HERALD, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1953. 7

TEXT #2

Source:

Evening Herald 1953

No New-Fangled Ideas For Him!

In the Annies district of Scotsnouse. Clones, which was recently electrified, an old man paid his customary weekly visit to his sister

He was amazed with the new electric light, electric fron and electric kettle. He watched his sister brewing tea with water boiled in the electric kettle.

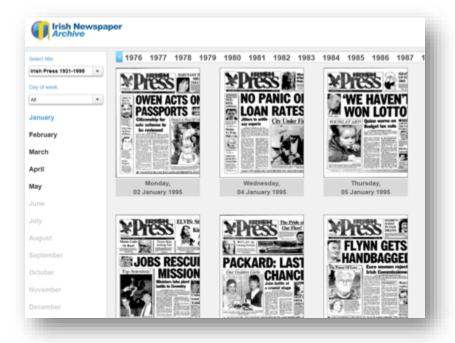
When offered the tea he stubbornly refused to accept it

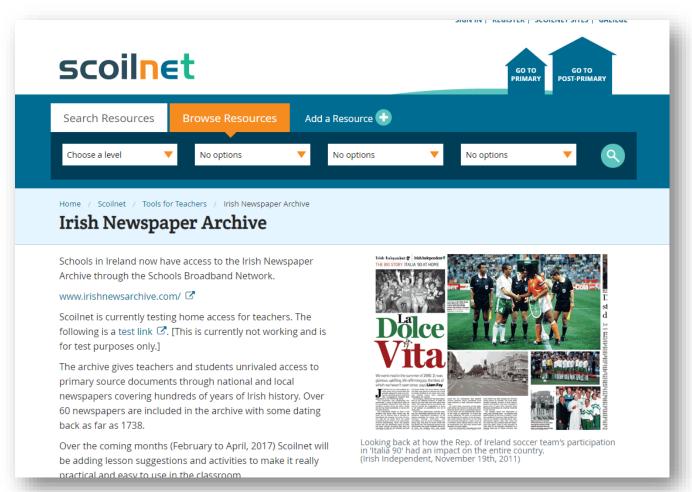
He believed the water was electrified.

His sister told him he shouldn't have such foolish notions. Nevertheless, she had to make fresh teafor him from water boiled in a
kettle on the turf fire

Locating primary sources (I)

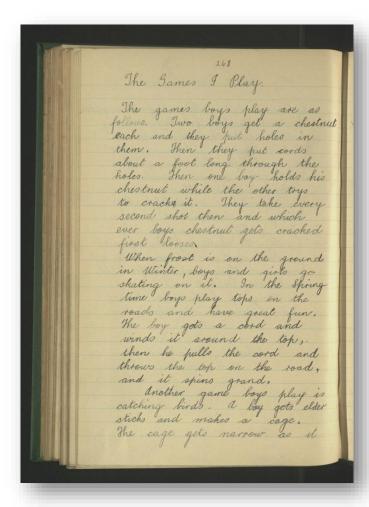


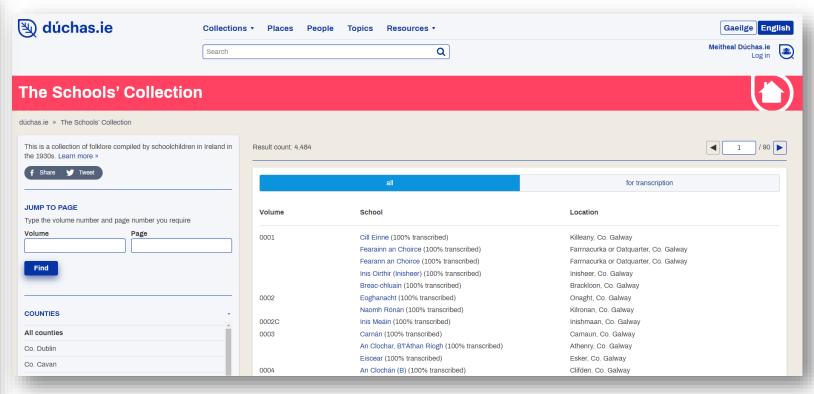




https://www.scoilnet.ie/scoilnet/tools-for-teachers/ina/

Locating primary sources (2)

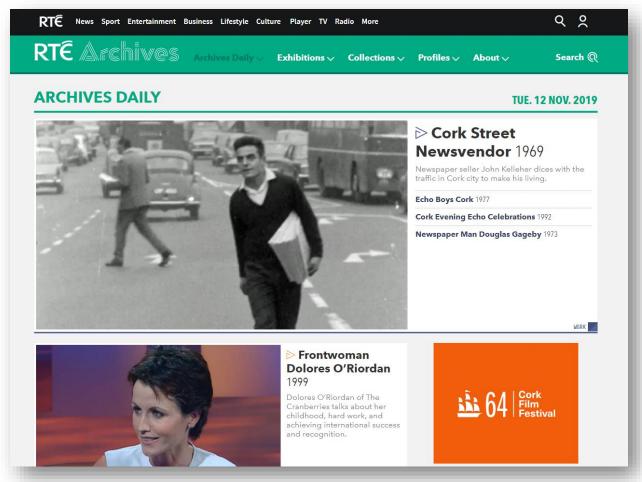




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Reading > 9. Comprehension

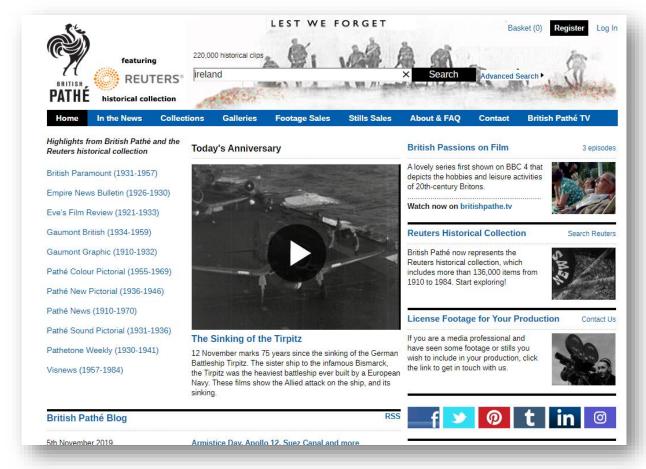
Locating primary sources (3)



https://www.rte.ie/archives/

Reading > 9. Comprehension

Locating primary sources (4)



https://www.britishpathe.com/

Reading > 9. Comprehension

Graphic Organisers

- Help scaffold thinking
- Need to be modelled using a think aloud
- See Padlet for examples to download

Name:	Date:
Title of Text 1:	Title of Text 2:
Subject: Science / History / Art / Other	Subject: Science / History / Art / Other
Important points	Important points
I.	I.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.
Main idea:	Main idea:
Do you think you can trust this text? Why?	Do you think you can trust this text? Why?
How are the two texts the same?	
How are the two texts different?	
Overall, I think:	

Focus on one LO from each strand

- •Oral Language ✓
- •Reading √
- Writing

Learning Outcomes for Writing (L1)

6. Purpose, genre, and voice

Draw and write with a sense of purpose and audience while creating texts in a range of genres and other languages where appropriate.

Explore and use the typical text structure and language features associated with a variety of genres.

Develop an individual voice to share their thoughts, knowledge and experiences. $\TF6, CI+2+3+4$

Create text for a wide variety of authentic purposes, demonstrating an increasing understanding of the influence of the audience on their work.

Use, analyse and evaluate the typical text structure and language features associated with a wide variety of genres across the curriculum.

Use a variety of writing technic further develop and demonstrate an individual voice in their awareness of dialect.

Use, analyse and evaluate the typical text structure and language features associated with a wide variety of genres across the curriculum

Writing an argument (like persuasive writing)

- A key skills in most disciplines/subjects is being able to use evidence to make a convincing argument (Pearson et al., 2018)
- This is highly reliant on having adequate knowledge of the topic as well as a command of linguistic/organisational features

TREE

(Self Regulated Strategy Development - e.g. Harris et al., 2018)



- Topic sentence, Tell what you believe!
- Reasons, 3 or more, Why do I believe this? Will my readers believe this?
- Explain each reason; Say more about each reason that helps persuade your listener
- Ending, Wrap it up right!

Evidence for Self-Regulated Strategy Development

 Significant evidence for use of this approach, particularly for children with special educational needs/literacy difficulties(Harris et al., 2018)





Task

- •Using the book:
 - Identify potential subject-specific learning
 - Identify potential PLC Learning Outcome links
 - Identify how disciplinary literacy approaches could be developed (e.g. multi-source comprehension; adopting a critical stance; vocabulary)
- Be prepared to share





The Curriculum Bully?

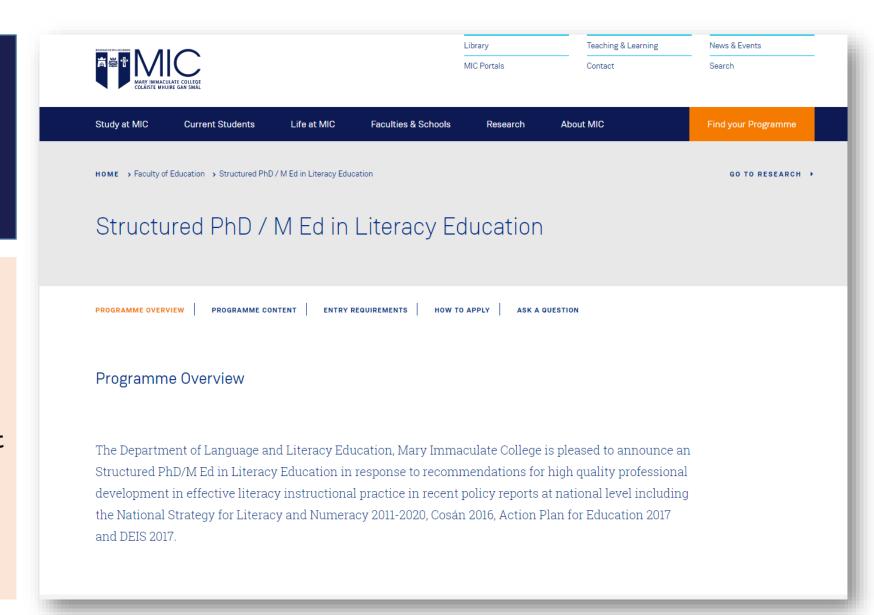
- Is literacy a subject?
- Is literacy a cross-curricular competence?
- How should time be allocated to literacy?
- Clarifying terminology:
 - Literacy
 - Language
 - 'English'
 - Literature

Postgraduate study in Literacy Education at Mary Immaculate College

M.Ed - 2 years Structured PhD - 4 years

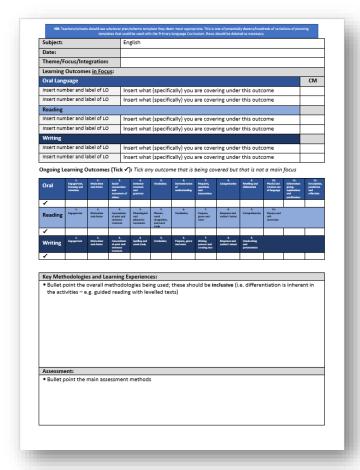
Modules include:

- Diversity in Literacy
 Acquisition and Development
- Promoting Effective Literacy Leadership in Educational Settings
- Inclusive Literacy Pedagogy



Planning with the Primary Language Curriculum

Final note — I have placed a potential planning template for the Primary Language Curriculum on Padlet – feedback is welcome!



Míle buíochas! Happy conferencing!

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