

Dialogic Teaching

Getting started

To help you think about using dialogue teaching, look at this list of DOs and DON'TS.

As a starting point, compare these with your normal practice in the classroom, and identify the 'dos' that might make the biggest difference for you.

Then choose two or three of these and try to use them in the classroom. Ask a colleague to observe how far you succeed in the first week, and then in subsequent weeks. The rest of these materials suggest further ways to modify and extend your work.

DO	DON'T
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose questions and topics which are likely to challenge children cognitively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merely ask children to guess what you are thinking or to recall simple and predictable facts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expect children to provide extended answers which will interest others in the class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tolerate limited, short answers which are of little interest to other children
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give children time to formulate their ideas and views through use of response partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hope for high quality answers without offering preparation or thinking time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide models of the patterns of language and the subject vocabulary to be used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expect children to formulate well-thought-out responses without the language to do so
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expect children to speak for all to hear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routinely repeat or reformulate what children have said
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vary your responses to what children say: debate with children; tell them things in order to extend the dialogue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Just ask questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signal whether you want children to <i>offer</i> to answer (hands up) or to <i>prepare</i> an answer in case you invite them to speak 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitually use the competitive, <i>hands up</i> model of question and a answer work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value talk as a tool for thinking and Learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't talk when children could be talking
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do expect children to listen with respect and respond appropriately 	