

Alliance Trio Evaluation 2012/2013

Aims of our Trio Focus

The aim of our Trio focus was to enhance and develop higher order questioning and thinking within the classroom, to extend children's learning and develop independence.

What went well?

Having an agreed format to each of the sessions was very successful; as it meant we all followed a similar plan to keep maintain consistency. Being able to discuss the sessions and scrutinize our findings was also a great for identifying significant areas that we could improve on.

The opportunity to share each other's skills, displays and routines was a great benefit. There have been aspects that I have taken back and used within my own teaching and classroom, which have lead to independence from my own students.

Impact on Teaching & Students?

As a result of observations made at each session and through discussions, afterwards, about how we ask and answer questions, I have enhanced my questioning skills. I now think more carefully about questions that I ask the children, in order to encourage them to be independent learners and to put more thought into their own answers.

The students have begun to think more carefully about questions they ask in relation to their learning. They have understood that more complex questions encourage more detailed answers and therefore further their learning. They are much better at thinking more deeply to find answers to questions. We are still working on developing their answers and how they can extend them to provide the best possible response to questions.

What have I learned?

I have learned that questioning is an important part of developing children's learning. The way in which questions are asked or answered can have a real impact on the way children develop their understanding of a subject. I have also learned that it is important not to 'squash' children's thoughts and answers, just because 'time is running out', as it could hinder learning, through not allowing them the opportunity to share their knowledge with their peers.

It is also important that questions are reconstructed/reworded in order to provide access for all children.

Do you feel more connected?

The opportunity to work with colleagues from other schools has been fantastic. It has given me the opportunity to make connections with other schools and teachers who are at a similar stage in their careers. It has provided an

opportunity to share, plan and review lessons, thoughts and practices with other people. It has been especially useful for me as it has given me a network of reliable and friendly people, beyond my own school, which I can turn to for ideas & professional discussions. This is important when working in such a small school.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the Trio work this year and would certainly be prepared to take part in another Trio.

I have found the Trio work to be far more effective, in terms of my professional development, in comparison to other CPD methods. The opportunity to share and draw on my own and my trio colleagues' experiences has been fundamental to my own teaching. It has provided the opportunity for instant feedback from my trio colleagues. The questions and experiences that have been established from the sessions do not compare, to sitting in a room and looking at a PowerPoint or paper.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the Trio experience and have gained a lot from it.