



## ‘The power of talk - raising attainment through oracy’

Are we giving children enough opportunities to talk, to think aloud and to rehearse language?

**1. Oracy Embedded Across the Curriculum** Many schools are working to embed oracy throughout all subjects rather than treating it as a standalone skill. Encouraging and motivating children to talk things through. For example,

- *“I think... because...”*
- *“Can you explain your idea?”*
- *“I agree/disagree because...”*

**2. Use of Structured Frameworks** Some schools have adopted structured oracy frameworks. For example, the Voice 21 Oracy Framework, which breaks oracy into four strands can be used to plan and assess the teaching of oracy:

- Physical (voice, body language)
- Linguistic (vocabulary, grammar)
- Cognitive (content, reasoning)
- Social & Emotional (confidence, listening, audience awareness).

### **3. In the classroom...**

- **Think-Pair-Share:** Encourage every child to think, talk, and listen.
- **Talk Detectives:** Children observe and reflect on good talk behaviours.
- **Role Play & Drama:** Explore emotions, vocabulary, and storytelling.
- **Storytelling Circles:** Retell stories in their own words.
- **Concept Cartoons:** Discuss different viewpoints and reasoning.
- **“Would You Rather...?” Questions:** Spark fun, thoughtful debate.

#### **Talk Partners & Group Work**

- Regularly pair children to discuss ideas before sharing with the class.
- Rotate partners to build confidence, listening skills, and social awareness.

#### **Create an Oracy-Rich Environment**

- Display oracy rules, sentence stems, and talk prompts.
- Celebrate good listening and clear speaking like you would neat handwriting.
- Use puppets, props, and visual aids to support talk—especially in EYFS.

#### **Model and Scaffold Talk**

- Be a role model for respectful, clear communication.



- Scaffold vocabulary and sentence structures for all learners.
- Use prompts like:
  - “First... then... finally...”
  - “I predict...”
  - “My opinion is...”

### Celebrate Every Voice

- Use circle time, class assemblies, and peer feedback.
- Give children regular chances to present, debate, and reflect.
- Create a safe, supportive space where all voices are valued.

### Everyday Talk Opportunities

- Use daily routines, play, and story time for meaningful conversations.
- Ask open-ended questions like:
  - “What do you think will happen next?”
  - “Why do you think that?”
- Encourage children to explain their thinking and listen to others.

### Sustained Shared Thinking

- Adults and children work together to solve problems and explore ideas.
- Example: “Let’s figure this out together—what do you notice?”

### 10. Oracy for Inclusion

- Scaffold talk for EAL, SEND, and quieter children using: visuals, gestures, repetition, and sentence starters.
- Celebrate diverse voices and create inclusive talk spaces.
- Assistive technology: Tools like translation apps can support comprehension and expression.

Here are some proven strategies to embed oracy across your setting:

- **Sustained Shared Thinking:** Engage children in deep conversations during play and exploration.
- **Sentence Stems:** Use prompts like “I think... because...” or “I predict...” to scaffold reasoning.
- **Mini Debates:** Encourage structured disagreement to build reasoning and confidence.
- **Ground Rules for Talk:** Establish norms for respectful, purposeful dialogue.



**Mighty Writer** is a resource that directly supports these priorities by providing a structured, inclusive, and engaging approach to developing oracy and writing.

### 1. Oral Composition as a Foundation for Writing

**Framework Link:** *Children should compose sentences orally before writing them.*

#### **Mighty Writer in Action:**

- Children rehearse sentences aloud using tactile mats and symbol tiles.
- They explore sentence structure, vocabulary, and sequencing through talk.
- This oral rehearsal reduces cognitive load and prepares children for fluent writing.

**Outcome:** Pupils internalise sentence patterns and develop confidence in expressing ideas before transcription begins.

### 2. Vocabulary and Grammar Development Through Talk

**Framework Link:** *Explicit teaching of vocabulary and grammar supports writing fluency.*

#### **Mighty Writer in Action:**

- Children experiment with adjectives, conjunctions, and sentence types.
- Teachers model rich language and scaffold sentence construction.
- Symbol tiles provide visual prompts to reinforce grammatical structures.

**Outcome:** Pupils build a strong linguistic foundation, supporting both spoken and written accuracy.

### 3. Cognitive and Linguistic Scaffolding

**Framework Link:** *Managing cognitive load is essential for successful writing.*

#### **Mighty Writer in Action:**

- Children focus on *what* they want to say before worrying about *how* to write it.
- Repeated oral storytelling builds memory, structure, and fluency.
- Visual and tactile supports reduce barriers to entry for writing tasks.

**Outcome:** Writing becomes a natural extension of talk, not a separate or stressful task.

### 4. Inclusive Practice for Diverse Learners

**Framework Link:** *Support must be tailored for pupils with SEND, EAL, or lower confidence.*

**Mighty Writer in Action:**

- Children with additional needs benefit from visual cues, repetition, and oral rehearsal.
- The resource allows for differentiated access to storytelling and sentence building.
- Teachers can adapt the tool for whole-class, small group, or 1:1 interventions.

**Outcome:** All children can participate meaningfully in language-rich learning, regardless of starting point.

** 5. Bridging Spoken and Written Language**

**Framework Link:** *Writing fluency depends on secure oral language and sentence-level composition.*

**Mighty Writer in Action:**

- Children tell their stories multiple times before writing.
- They develop narrative structure, vocabulary, and sentence fluency through talk.
- Writing becomes purposeful, coherent, and joyful.

**Outcome:** Pupils produce writing that reflects well-developed oral language, with improved structure and clarity.