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Modern Foreign Languages Adviser



Happy Language Learning

An Introduction to Languages for Ages 4-7

Welcome to Little Languages!

This scheme of work covering three year groups has been designed in response to requests from teachers for age appropriate material to use with younger children. As some schools have expressed an interest in teaching just French or Spanish at Foundation Stage 2 and Key Stage 1, there are lesson notes available for both languages in a comprehensive scheme. For schools and settings preferring to introduce children to a range of languages, songs and rhymes are provided in several languages.

Lesson notes are provided for each week and sessions vary in length across the three years from 10 – 20 minutes, but it is not intended that teachers follow every activity and every session if short of time. Children will benefit from revisiting rhymes and songs throughout the week and will gain more enjoyment from learning a language if the pace is right and the lesson is pitched appropriately. Therefore, feel free to adapt, reduce and extend content...

The lesson notes are supplemented by text cards, interactive white board activities, sound files, songs, images and DVD clips. The songs include traditional and 'made up' lyrics and for many of the songs, suggested actions are included in the lesson notes. The DVD clips give children a glimpse of life in another country, eg, through watching children celebrating a birthday and opening presents with friends. They are short clips, filmed by friends and colleagues abroad, with the intention that they come across to the children as authentic footage, rather than professionally produced material. Expect to see children climbing on sofas at birthday parties etc.!

You will find an introduction and an overview for the year at the start of each scheme, which will enable you to see how themes and language are repeated throughout the year. Intentionally, the scheme does not cover much of the vocabulary introduced at Key Stage 2, but seeks to give children an ability to express themselves using simple language in everyday contexts, such as giving a reaction to different food items, which is covered in Year 1. In all year groups links are made with other areas of the curriculum through a focus on themes such as healthy eating and the seaside, and through developing skills in speaking and listening, numeracy, movement and dance.

Finally, I do hope that you and the children you teach gain much enjoyment from the materials provided in Little Languages, and that our little linguists of the future are enthused and excited by their language learning experience.

Rachel Redfearn

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Using the Little Languages Resources Software

The Little Languages Resources software can be used in one of two ways.

- I). Run directly from the DVD. Insert the DVD into your DVD drive and browse for files. Open the Little Languages folder and double click the LITTLE LANGUAGES.exe icon.
- 2). Run from a network or local drive. Insert the DVD into your DVD drive and browse for files. Copy the Little Languages folder (if your computer asks if sub folders should also be copied, select YES) onto either your local hard drive or a network drive (Do not copy the folder onto your desktop). The application is launched by double clicking the LITTLE LANGUAGES.exe icon which is located within the Little Languages folder.

If you wish, you can create a shortcut on your desktop to LITTLE LANGUAGES.exe which is located within the Little Languages folder.

For assistance with using the Little Languages Resources Software, please contact your IT support staff in the first instance. If you are still experiencing problems, please contact La Jolie Ronde.

Included in the scheme:

- Detailed lesson notes
- 2 songs CDs
- DVD containing: Lesson notes, DVD clips, Images, Sound files, Songs, Text cards, Activities
- Faces Wall Frieze (size: 5m x 2m)

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