



Overview of Springboard to Languages

The Springboard programme contains sufficient material for 1–2 years' work. It presents 18 topic blocks of vocabulary with accompanying worksheets and activities (individual, class, group), supporting games, dialogues, songs, plays, flashcards, posters and story books.

Language learning

Springboard uses the regular, international language Esperanto as a basis for study. A created language, it can be effectively 'decreated and recreated' to show children how language works. Vocabulary and grammar are presented in individual lesson sheets. Each topic block is followed by consolidation exercises and a memory map (for reinforcing previously learned vocabulary). Grammatical endings are highlighted in the presentation and exploited in the exercises and in the supplementary worksheets.

Additional Sheets (AS) give language practice and are suitable for all pupils. They can be used for written or oral practice or a combination of both. The course aims to develop equally the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

A picture dictionary, the Esperanto equivalent of *First Thousand Words*, is used with accompanying activity cards, suitable for individual, pair or group work.

Language and cultural awareness

Springboard aims to raise language and cultural awareness. The topic vocabulary is exploited in order to demonstrate similarities with other languages. Many Esperanto words are based on Latin roots and every opportunity is taken to extend and enrich English vocabulary by drawing comparisons between Esperanto words and similar, often quite complicated words in English. The Teacher Handbook contains suggested activities for raising language awareness, and gives language-link sentences which may be used as a basis for discussing countries, cultures and languages. From as early as Topic 2, children can apply their 'Springboard skills' to help them understand other languages.

In addition, Springboard encourages exploration of other cultures, and places particular emphasis on links with schools abroad as being the best means of fostering a positive multicultural attitude and an interest in, and desire to learn, other languages.

Cross-curricular

The Extension Sheets (ES) are cross-curricular and suitable for stretching the more able (helping with differentiation). They allow language work to extend into other aspects of a pupil's learning, in particular Maths, Science, English and Humanities.

The course is extremely supportive of Literacy and slots easily into literacy sessions. The *Wise Owl Grammar* series of core booklets and worksheets introduces aspects of English grammar in a fun way, and *Fun with Word-builders* exploits the creative 'building blocks' aspect of language.

Assessment and achievement

Each child is provided with a folder in which to keep completed and current lesson sheets. The inside covers of each folder have self-assessment motivational charts for stickers linked to 'I can do this!' statements: the inside front cover acknowledges progress in the four language skills with star and skill stickers; the inside back cover acknowledges growing language awareness with owls to be coloured. This portfolio with record of achievement helps to encourage children to feel positively about themselves and language learning.