

# Newsletter



## Flying High English Hub

Free training

Supporting Early Language Development programme

[Download details here](#)

### The Early Language Gap and the need for early intervention



From Carl Pattison,  
Flying High English Hub Lead

#### Did you know...

...that one in four children who struggled with language at age five did not reach the expected standard in English at the end of primary school compared with one in 25 children who had good language skills at age five.

*The Millenium Cohort Study*

Children, who enter our schools without an age appropriate level of language, are far more likely to leave primary school without a secure grasp of reading and writing. Unsurprisingly, we also know that falling below expected standards in pre-school assessment of 'school readiness' (age 3) and in teacher assessment of literacy and number skills at school entrance (age 5) are both highly predictive of failure to attain a grade 4 or higher in GCSE English language and maths at age 16.

Given the significance of this, I wanted to share some possible solutions. Firstly, I strongly recommend starting our **Supporting Early Language Development** programme in January 2023. This is a new programme aimed at supporting schools to tackle the early language challenge. Further details can be found on the left hand side. Places are going fast so book early to avoid disappointment.

Secondly, I recommend visiting the **Speech and Language UK website** for further support. For example, they share a **free introductory course** to speech and language. They also offer various resources like a free speech and language tracker that can be accessed [here](#).

To set the scene for your staff, I would also share Darcie's story. It focuses on Development Language Disorder (DLD) and really highlights the impact of having limited language.



Watch here





# Flying High English Hub

Finally, we know that the early family socio-economic environment that children are exposed to has long-lasting consequences for our children. For some children, this has been a negative experience, amplified further by the recent COVID pandemic. Given this challenge, now more than ever, we need to focus on early identification and intervention. There are a range of options out there for school when it comes to early language intervention. For example, **'Talk Boost'** might be something you want to explore to further as it offers schools training on the approach, as well as an intervention package..

If you find this topic interesting and want to learn more, I recommend reading **this article** from the EEF-'Early Language Development: Needs, provision, and intervention for preschool children from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.'

**Carl Pattison**  
Flying High English Hub Lead



## Author in the spotlight

[Hear Olivia read this book](#)

[Read an Interview with Olivia](#)

You could share this interview with children and focus on her approach to writing. There are a few surprises in there that will be valuable for our children as writers themselves.



### Olivia Hope

Olivia Hope is an Irish writer with a special love for children's fiction. A former record-breaking athlete, she competed internationally representing Ireland. With twenty years' experience teaching children, she has worked with all ages in the creative arts; as a creative associate with the Irish Arts Council on the Creative Schools programme, and as a creative learning assistant with Siamsa Tíre (the National Folk theatre of Ireland).

Inspired by the vivid green landscape of her home, Olivia Hope wrote *Be Wild, Little One* as a way of capturing the excitement, adventure, peace and wonder that engagement with nature brings. She lives in the South West of Ireland with her husband and sons.

'Be Wild Little One', is Olivia's first book and is on the UKLA 2023 longlist for an award. Carl was fortunate to meet Olivia and hear more about her inspiration for her story. Hear her reading wonderful story on the left hand side. Why not share this with your children?



# We Recommend...



## Flying High English Hub

### Open University Reading for Pleasure



#### The Open University Reading for Pleasure

The website [ourfp.org](http://ourfp.org) continues to offer a wide range of material and information for schools wanting to develop reading for pleasure. This month, we share a range of resources and materials that help schools develop 'Social Reading Environments.'

Review your current practice. When working on your reading environment, it is advisable to start with an audit of what you already have.	 <a href="#">Access the OU audit here</a>
This classroom strategies document offers schools a range of practical ideas to consider when creating social reading environments.	 <a href="#">Link</a>
Read this wonderful example of practice by Palm Bay Primary School. It identifies their RfP journey and how they developed their social reading environments.	 <a href="#">Link</a>
In this example of practice, by Cannon Park Primary, you can learn more about their journey and how they transformed the reading corners in their school.	 <a href="#">Link</a>



## BRITISH LIBRARY

### Key Links

[Discovering Children's Books](#)

[Creative campaigns](#)

[Step Inside your story](#)

#### British Library

Have you looked at the British Library materials for schools? During next spring term, the British Library is beaming Michael Rosen, Viviane Schwarz and Mara the Storyteller into classrooms as they relaunch their popular **Cook up your own fairy tales** campaign. This will include a free children's launch event to get children started with Michael, and a CPD webinar to support you teaching traditional tales. [Find out more here.](#)

From 25 January to 28 March, they are inviting children to make their own little books and fill them with fairy stories inspired by tales of the past. Share children's work on Twitter, tagging @BL\_Learning, or email [childrens.books@bl.uk](mailto:childrens.books@bl.uk) for a chance to win £50 book tokens for your school.

Book your free place for two livestreamed events:

**25 January:** join Michael Rosen, Mara the Storyteller and teacher Lauren Wood for a twilight CPD session. Examine key motifs in traditional tales, delve into the history of fairy stories, engage in a creative writing session and discover ready-to-teach classroom ideas. [Register.](#)

**1 February:** take part in a children's workshop to concoct fairy tale recipes with Michael Rosen and Viviane Schwarz. [Register.](#)



## Literacy Trust Overview of research reports

This month, we looked at one of the research reports from the National Literacy Trust. For English leads, Early Reading leads and headteachers, the research reports provide a valuable source of reflection. By reviewing the research reports, schools can reflect on their own position and more importantly, learn about projects and approaches that have been successful. To start with, we recommend looking at the 'Book ownership in 2022' report. In summary, it highlights the number of children without a book or collection of books at home. Furthermore, it then compares FSM numbers with non-FSM.

The key finding for us was the impact of having more than one book in the home. Here it is "These findings suggest that while having any books of your own at home is likely to have an impact on reading engagement, having more than 10 books is associated with a wide range of positive reading attitudes and behaviours. Notably, these impacts increased steadily in proportion to the number of books children reported having at home."

-How many books do your children have at home?

-Who only has one?

-What can your school do to help families increase the number of books in the home?

## Updates

We have had an overwhelming response to our Accelerator Fund opportunity and because of this, applications are now closed. Schools who did apply will soon receive an email from Emma Spiers, our Accelerator Fund lead. She will set up your audit day and begin to work with you to see how the Accelerator fund might support you.

If you do not hear anything in the next few weeks, please email [englishhub@flyinghightrust.co.uk](mailto:englishhub@flyinghightrust.co.uk).

Wishing you a very  
Happy Christmas  
from all of us at the  
Flying High English  
Hub.



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