

Let's TALK Derby

**TALK
Derby**

Welcome to the TALK Derby newsletter. We will be sharing with you updates on the TALK Derby project, some of the fantastic work that Derby settings have been doing and how Derby businesses have been getting involved.

Please share this newsletter with your friends, family and colleagues to spread the the word about TALK Derby around the city.

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TALK Derby now covers whole city

TALK Derby has been expanded to cover the entire city. The project was launched last June with an initial focus on eight particularly disadvantaged inner city wards.

In less than six months, the project has trained more than 150 early years professionals and recruited 99 champions who work with children. Also, nearly 200 people have made a pledge to support the project.

Now the Derby Opportunity Area Board which oversees the project has extended the scope of TALK Derby to cover the entire city.

This means any early years organisation in Derby can now apply to access free support and training via the TALK Derby website (www.talkderby.org.uk/training).

Project Director Kate Freeman said: "We're delighted the Board has agreed to extend TALK Derby. This means even more settings can apply to access free training and support, helping more children in Derby to improve their communication, speech and language skills. We'd encourage any schools, nurseries and childminders which haven't yet taken up the opportunity to book now. We expect places to be taken up quickly."

About TALK Derby

TALK Derby is a Government-funded project aimed at raising awareness of the importance of speech, language and communication development in children and young people – and provides practical support for it.

The Department for Education has funded the project until August 2020 as part of the national Opportunity Area programme. We're supported by Derby City Council, the Derby Opportunity Area and a wide range of other partners.

Derby businesses show support for TALK Derby

Rolls Royce, Bombardier, Albatross Cars, Motorpoint and Pattonair are among the companies to have pledged their support for TALK Derby.

Derbyshire County Cricket Club and Derby County FC have also shown their backing, as have their associated community charities.

In coming issues we will be sharing some of the interesting ways businesses have been supporting TALK Derby. And if there are any other Derby-based businesses that want to help us promote the project across the City, please get in touch!



Will Tanner from Bombardier showing his support for TALK Derby

TALK Derby in action

Lord Street Community Nursery School

Lord Street Community Nursery School has firmly embedded communication into their teaching and values since the launch of TALK Derby.

To do this, the school has made the most of the training opportunities for staff through the project.



Group story-time at Lord Street Nursery School

Head teacher, Deirdre Malley, says: "Ultimately we want the best outcomes for our children and having well-trained staff supports this. Our staff also have access to networking and support to share ideas. I would always encourage teachers to take advantage of speech and language training."

The combination of training and networking has enabled the school to focus more on communication, speech and language.

Deirdre continues: "Children are our most important resource for the future.

"They need to be able to communicate effectively to be successful and happy in life – and the conversations children have with adults have the greatest effect on language development.

"Talking is critical to mastering all elements of the curriculum. The children also need to be able to express their feelings and explain what they want. If they can't do that they easily get frustrated. Talking also helps them deal with relationships and how they behave towards each other."

Encouraging a love of books

The school offers a bilingual library and has introduced a book swap for the children, where families can bring a book and take one away. There are sessions focusing on specific books and parents are advised on how to support their child through sharing books.

Deirdre says: "My one tip for parents wanting to help their children develop their communication skills would be to spend time reading with their children. You don't have to read the story, just use the pictures to talk about what's happening on the page."

Talking in the forest

Lord Street Community Nursery School also uses a Forest School, where children can learn outside. All of them, regardless of ability and educational needs, have access to this. Parents are encouraged to join Forest School visits, giving them the chance to enjoy adventurous activities with their parents and give them things to talk about.



Playing outside at Lord Street Nursery School

Deirdre concludes: "We offer a range of opportunities for parents, carers and grandparents to talk with children in the school. This is available from birth, with our Little Explorers Group, right up until they move on to school.

"TALK Derby has increased our focus on this and communication, language and speech are at the heart of our children's learning."

Magic maths gets children talking

In November, Pear Tree Infant school held a Magic Maths Day.

This fun-filled day was aimed at encouraging the children to talk, listen and communicate with each other and staff to solve maths-based problems. Each year group had a set of challenges to solve either working with their maths buddy, as teams or as a class.

Mrs Bindy Suddhi, head teacher at Pear Tree Infants, explains the buddy system: "Children pair up as Maths Buddies to discuss and solve maths problems together. Usually a child more able at maths is paired with a less able child. As well as encouraging them to communicate, it helps them understand and retain information better."

The Magic Maths Day challenges included:

- Eggs in space – in teams the children created spaceships to help their alien egg land safely and not break. The craft was dropped from a height... not all the alien eggs made it!
- Potion-making – the Foundation classes went outdoors to make potions following ingredient cards. With ingredients ranging from conkers to buttons, each child had to add the correct number of each ingredient – with the addition of water and mud being optional.
- Teddy's holiday – Teddy was packing his bag to go on holiday but needed different numbers of items. Using cards, the children found the correct numbers of things for Teddy. Unfortunately Teddy had only packed presents for two of his friends and had forgotten to get one for Mouse!



Eggs in space activity at Pear Tree Infant School's Magic Maths Day

Opportunities to read are always encouraged at Pear Tree Infants and so alongside the day's maths activities, groups of children spent time with the Reading Rabbits... These lovely rabbits – Rosie and Rodrigues – hopped around, checking out the books and children as they read to them.

Magic Maths Day shows perfectly how talking and communicating are crucial in all subjects – not just reading and writing. It also demonstrates how communication skills help children build confidence, relationships and learn how to work together. And most importantly, the children and staff had a great time.



Potion-making activity at Pear Tree Infant School's Magic Maths Day

Three top tips for 12 – 24 month olds

These ideas for encouraging communication while you go about your day are from Hungry Little Minds.

- At mealtimes say the names of the foods your child is eating and say what they're like, using words like 'crunchy', 'squishy', 'sour', 'cold', 'warm'.
- When you're out and about, notice the different noises your child responds to. Talk about what they can hear – for example, 'The birds are saying tweet-tweet,' or 'It's a car, vrrrrrooom!'
- Look at picture books together. With each new page, give your child time to point out things to you. Talk about what they can see using words for actions as well as for things – for example, 'The monkey is eating.'

For more tips and resources visit: talkderby.org.uk/resources/ and hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/.

TALK Derby in numbers

TALK Derby is making significant progress, take a look at these numbers!



195 pledges made



325,357 people reached on Twitter



99 TALK Derby Champions signed up



151 professionals trained or in training

TALK Derby DAY update

TALK Derby is already providing support and training for professionals and parents in Derby. Now we have exciting plans to involve the entire city in our work.

TALK Derby DAY is designed to inspire schools, businesses, community groups and other organisations to stage activities which encourage face-to-face conversations – between adults, and with children and young people.

This can involve everything from story-telling, games and picnics, to networking meetings and avoiding emails.

TALK Derby DAY will be on 1 July 2020. Save the date and start planning what you'll be doing that day.

There's also an opportunity for businesses to sponsor the resources and materials needed to make TALK Derby Day the success we all want it to be.

Our children's futures are something to talk about – let's TALK Derby!

Contact info@talkderby.org.uk if you want to share your TALK Derby DAY ideas or if you are a business wanting to sponsor the event.

How you can support TALK Derby

1. Make the TALK Derby pledge

Commit to spending more time talking and listening to the children in your lives by making the TALK Derby pledge.

2. Find out more about TALK Derby

Visit the website: talkderby.org.uk or contact us direct: info@talkderby.org.uk.

3. Follow like and share our social media

Twitter: [@lets_TALKDerby](https://twitter.com/lets_TALKDerby)

Facebook: [TALK Derby](https://www.facebook.com/TALKDerby)

Instagram: [@talk_derby](https://www.instagram.com/talk_derby)

4. Look at and share TALK Derby's resources for parents

There is a range of videos, materials and other guidance for parents at: <https://talkderby.org.uk/resources/>.

Training sessions offering further support to help develop listening, attention and communication skills will be available soon.