

Benhurst Primary School

Language of the Month

Teachers Handbook



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Introduction

No child should be expected to cast off the language and culture of the home as he crosses the school threshold, nor to live and act as though school and home represent two totally separate and different cultures which have to be kept firmly apart. The curriculum should reflect many elements of that part of his life, which a child lives outside school.

Bullock Report (1975)

Why have a "Language of the Month"?

There are many reasons why we should know about one another's languages, including the following:

- To give bilingual children the opportunity to demonstrate the language skills they bring to school.
- To enhance the status of bilingual children.
- To broaden the horizons of monolingual English-speakers.
- To show respect for other languages and cultures.
- To give parents an opportunity to be actively involved in their children's learning.

How to use this booklet

This booklet contains 10 minute activities, mostly games. Highlight the activities that you like. Children will want to play the activities again when learning other languages so spread the activities over the month and adapt them to suit your class. Reward the children for playing the games well by using stickers.

When to use the activities

- Weekly 15 minutes - circle time
- Incorporated into the school day - Registration / Home time

The Language of the Month website

The Language of the Month website at www.benhurst.havering.sch.uk has the information, resources and website links for the languages covered during the school academic year. Further copies of this booklet can also be downloaded from this website.

Words we are learning

- Thankyou
- Yes
- No
- Well done
- Good morning
- Good afternoon
- Number counting to 10
- Hello
- Goodbye
- Please

Language of the Month

September - Albanian

October - Igbo

November - Yoruba

December - Malayam

January - Chinese

February - Polish

March - Romanian

April - Bengali

May - Lithuanian

June - Urdu

July - Bulgarian

10 Minute Activities

Saying 'thank you'

Pass the ball

The children sit in a circle. One child holds the end of a ball of string, calls out a friend's name and throws the ball of string to that friend. The child who gets the ball of string says *thank you* in the target language. The second child then holds a piece of the string and passes the ball to another child, and so on. The children end up making a web pattern with the string. The teacher then winds up the ball of string saying *thank you* to each child.

Yes / No / Well done

Twenty questions

Display and rehearse the words *yes*, *no* and *well done* in the target language. Secretly write down the name of an object. The class has to ask questions to narrow down what has been secretly written. Questions can only be answered with a *yes* or *no*.

Keep a record of the number of questions asked. They can only ask up to 20 questions. When a child guesses correctly, say *well done* in the target language.

Famous person

Display and rehearse the words *yes*, *no* and *well done* in the focus language. Secretly write down the name of a famous person, e.g. Bart Simpson. The class has to ask questions to narrow down who the famous person is. Questions can only be answered with a *yes* or *no*. Give the class five minutes to get the answer. When a child guesses correctly, say *well done* in the target language. (With younger children use the names of people in the school.)

Hedbanz

This Paul Lamond game can be purchased from toy shops, or can be handmade. A person sits at the front of the class wearing a headband which holds a card showing a picture of an object. The person with the headband does not know what the object is, but has to find out by asking the other players questions which they can only answer with a *yes* or *no* using the target language.

Good morning - Good afternoon

Registration

Display the words *good morning* and *good afternoon* in the target language. Use these words whilst doing the register.

Numbers 1 - 10

Throwing a dice

The children sit in a circle. One child starts the game by throwing a large sponge die to someone in the circle and calling out that child's name. The child receiving the die has to say the number it lands on before passing it to someone else.

Throwing a beanbag

The children sit in a circle. One child starts the game by throwing a beanbag to another child and saying a number in the target language. The child receiving the beanbag says the next number in the sequence and then throws the beanbag to another child, and so on.

What is my number

You need six large cards with the numbers 1 to 6. Choose six children to hold up the cards. The children holding the cards take turns to pick a child to call out the number in their hands.

Give me 5

The teacher calls out a number using the target language, e.g. *Give me tres*. The children then show the number using their fingers,

Odds and evens

Divide the class into two groups - the odds and the evens. Get the children to face each other and chant the numbers to 12. The odds start with one, and then the evens call out two, and so on. Swap the groups around.

I can count to 10

The children who can come to the front of the class and count to 10 in the Language of the Month write their names on a chart and are given a sticker.

Find the doll

Display and rehearse the numbers 1 to 12 (1 to 6 for younger children). One child leaves the room, and another child hides a small doll in the classroom. The child waiting outside the classroom comes back in and has to find the doll. The class start chanting the numbers 1 to 12 in the target language. They get louder when the child gets nearer to the doll and

quieter when the child moves away from the doll. The game ends when the doll is found.

Musical numbers

Play some music for the children to dance to. When you stop the music, call out a number using the target language. The children have to get into groups of that number. Any children not in a group of that number are out. Continue until there are only two or three children left. Give a reward to the winners.

Bingo

Write on the board 1 to 10 words from the focus language which you would like to review. Tell the children to choose any four words and write them down on a piece of paper. Now read out the words on the board, one by one, in any order. If the children have written down one of the words that you call out, they tick it on their piece of paper. When they have ticked all their four words, they call out *Bingo*. Keep a record of the words you read out in order to check the winner's piece of paper.

Hello

Hello World!

Read the Hello World! Get the children to say *hello* in the target language and tell them how many speakers of this language they can now say hello to. For example, a child who learns to say *hola* can now say *hello* to the 425,000,000 Spanish speakers in the world.

First hellos

- Turn to the people around you, shake their hands and say *hello* using the Language of the Month.
- Sit in a circle and pass the *hello* around the circle.

Who said hello?

A child is chosen to sit on a chair with his or her back to the class. The teacher then points to another child who says *hello* in the target language to the child sitting on the chair, e.g. *Bonjour, Ahmed*. The child on the chair then has to identify the person who said the greeting. When the child sitting on the chair has identified five children, s/he can be rewarded with a sticker.

Hello again

The class sits in a circle in the hall. One child walks around the circle and chooses another child by tapping him/her on the shoulder. The two children shake hands and say *hello* to each other three times using the target language. They then race in opposite directions around the circle.

When they meet about half way, they repeat their greetings and then continue racing to the empty space left by the child who was tapped on the shoulder. The first to sit in the empty space is the winner. The other child walks around the circle and chooses a new child to say *hello* to.

Goodbye

Home time

At the end of the school day teacher says 'goodbye' to the children in the target language.

Please

Teach the children how to say *please* in the target language, e.g. *por favor*. Display the word for all to see. Identify situations when the word can be used. Challenge children to try and use the word three times during the day, e.g. "Pass me the rubber, *por favor*."

Language - words learnt

Hot potato

The children sit in a circle. The children pass the ball to each other by calling out a word they have learned from the target language and the name of the player they are passing to. Keep count of the number of passes made in three minutes and see if the class can better their score.

The Harry Potter game

Two children face each other with wands (rulers). The teacher then calls out a word in English, e.g. *hello*. The children cast a spell on their opponent by calling out the word in the target language, e.g. *bonjour*. The first to do so correctly, wins the duel. The player who wins three duels wins the game. It is more fun if after each duel, the teacher suggests something that the loser has been turned into, e.g. a rabbit, a school tie, or a plate of spaghetti.

Videos

Video links for the target language can be found on our website at www.benhurst.havering.sch.uk

Maps and flags

Draw the map and flag of a country where the Language of the Month is spoken. The following website is useful for this activity:

www.benhurst.havering.sch.uk

National Anthems

Listen to the national anthem of the countries where the Language of the Month is spoken by visiting the website at

www.benhurst.havering.sch.uk