Easi-Speak LESSON IDEAS

IT10100   **IT10007**   **IT10093**

Popular micro-phones with built-in memory. Children can be reporters, singing stars, investigators and much more.

COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE **ENGLISH LITERACY** **MUSIC** **CREATIVITY** **COMPUTING & ICT**

- ❖ Simple to use.
- ❖ Easy to download the audio onto a PC via the USB connector at the bottom.
- ❖ You can sit back and playback the audio on the device too!

- ❖ Great for encouraging speaking and listening.
- ❖ Can be used for the indoor and outdoor classroom.
- ❖ Many cross-curricular links.

Big Idea Thinking

The following activities support children in learning algorithmic and language skills. The devices can be used in any subject to review subject learning. Younger children may also want to use Easi-Speak as a prop for role play and retelling stories.

- ❖ Pair with a wireless speaker to create an affordable PA system.
- ❖ A wonderful resource for encouraging confidence in talking and enjoyment in using language.

We have put together an idea for using the micro-phones with each age range. There are many ways these devices can be used. Enjoy using the micro-phones. If you have any brilliant ideas for using these versatile and fun resources, we loved to hear from you.
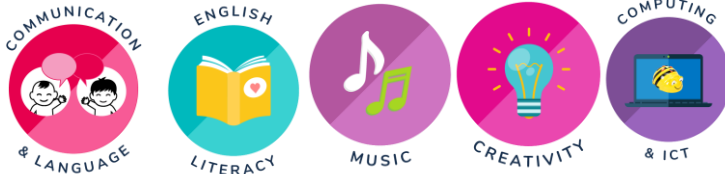
How it connects to learning

The activities provide an overview of how the Easi-Speak device can be used. They are presented in an open-minded way in terms of the skills needed to work the device and the resources created. The length of time spent on each activity is dependent on the experience and ability of the children.

Easi-Speak LESSON IDEAS

Inspirational Ideas 3-5 years

Key Focus: Explore ways of recording sounds and speech to help language development.

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SKILLS AND LEARNING

- Use the device to play back speech, music or other recorded sounds.
- Develop language skills.

PREPARATION

Record some noises for the children to guess (e.g. running water, different musical instruments, birds singing, footsteps, cars, whistle etc).

INTRODUCTION

Talk about sounds.
Show the children how to switch on the device (On/Off Switch).

Next, demonstrate how to play sounds on the device by playing the pre-recorded sounds (Play button/Next Track/Previous Track).

ACTIVITIES

- The children guess what the sounds are or who has made the sounds.

- Show how the device can be used to record sounds using the 'Record' button and 'Play' button (e.g. by recording the children singing).

- Pairs or groups of children record their own sounds (e.g. nursery rhymes) and share them with the class.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Children use the Easi-Speaks to record sounds that they hear in their outside area as part of their continuous provision. They then share the recorded sounds with the class. They can guess what the sounds are.

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Easi-Speak LESSON IDEAS

Inspirational Ideas 5-7 years

Key Focus - Explore and use the Easi-Speak device to create digital content.

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SKILLS AND LEARNING

- Explore and use the Easi-Speak device to create digital content.
- Download sound/audio files from the device to a computer and save them in an appropriate format and folder.
- Be able to retrieve files from the computer.

PREPARATION

Ensure your Easi-Speak device(s) are charged by connecting to a computer or by using the Easi-Speak Mains Docking Station.

INTRODUCTION

Listen and sing along to some songs or raps.

Allow children time to write their song or rap.

ACTIVITIES

So that the children have the skills needed to complete the task the teacher needs to demonstrate how to:
- Record and play back sounds
- Connect the Easi-Speak to a computer via the USB connector and transfer sound/audio files to the computer.
- Play the files on the computer.
- Retrieve the file from the computer to play it back.

Once the children are competent; they can record their raps or songs and transfer them to the computer. Finally, they can retrieve, share and present them with the rest of the class.
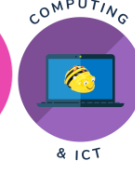
EXTENSION ACTIVITY

The children listen to feedback about their songs and raps. They re-record their songs or raps and this time they can add extra sound effects or simple musical accompaniment (e.g. percussion).

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Easi-Speak LESSON IDEAS

Inspirational Ideas 7-9 years

<u>Key Focus</u> – Use the Easi-Speak to record and edit sound/audio file for a given purpose (interview).

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SKILLS AND LEARNING

- Create an audio-based interview for a given purpose
- Select, download, manipulate and edit existing sound files in sound editing software (e.g. Audacity).
- Identify, discuss and evaluate the purpose, audience and language of the interview.

PREPARATION

A quieter area or room may be needed to get suitable recordings.

The audio-editing software Audacity can be found and downloaded from the Easi-Speak devices (old version) to the computer used for editing. Instructions of how to download the version of Audacity on the Easi-Speak is found in the user guide for the Easi-Speak.

A newer version of Audacity can be downloaded from (http://www.audacityteam.org/).

INTRODUCTION

Talk about interviews. Children write questions and suitable answers for their interview. The answers are not needed if they are doing a live interview on a school trip.

Possible interview scenarios: Famous scientific or historical person, An animal, Person of interest from a school trip

ACTIVITIES

- The teacher demonstrates how to download files to the computer and open them in audio editing software such as Audacity. The children are then shown some basic skills using this type of software.

- The children interview the person of interest or record their interview using another pupil as the interviewee. The interviewee can use the prompts/answers prepared by the interviewer.

- The children must remember to move the microphone from person to person, depending on who is talking.
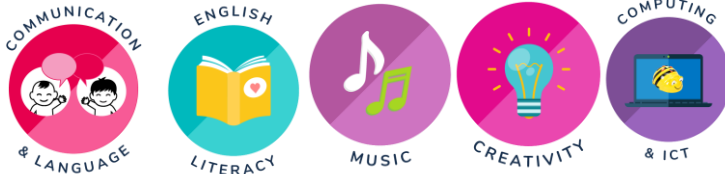
EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Children record a short audio clip to introduce their interview. They edit and merge their audio files together using free software such as Audacity. They evaluate their work to make sure it is fit-for-purpose.

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Easi-Speak LESSON IDEAS

Inspirational Ideas 9-11 years

Key Focus – Independently create digital audio files for a given purpose and audience.

SKILLS AND LEARNING

- Independently create audio files for a given purpose and audience
- Independently select, edit, manipulate and combine sound files from a range of sources.
- Identify, discuss and evaluate the purpose, audience and language of the interview.

PREPARATION

A quieter area or room may be needed to get suitable recordings.

The audio-editing software audacity can be found and downloaded from the Easi-Speak devices (old version) to the computer used for editing. Instructions of how to download the version of Audacity on the Easi-Speak is found in the user guide for the EasiSpeak on the device.

A newer version of Audacity can be downloaded from (http://www.audacityteam.org/). They may ask for musical instruments to create their theme tunes or sound effects (see extension).

INTRODUCTION

The children prepare a radio show script. Suitable themes for the show could include documentary programmes on scientific topics such as evolution; factual historical programmes on Anglo-Saxons; story telling shows or perhaps ones for healthy eating and designing a healthy menu. The programmes should not need to be too long (e.g. 1-2 minutes will be fine).

ACTIVITIES

The children record their radio shows in small groups. By upper key stage 2 they should be able to use devices independently (i.e. the Easi-Speak and the computer).

They edit and join their sound/audio files together using free software such as Audacity.

They evaluate the work (self/peer assessment) to make sure it is fit-for-purpose. Share the recordings with the rest of the class.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Children can write, perform and record a suitable theme tune for their radio show. They will need to add it to the start and end of their radio show.