

Approaches to using visuals in teaching and learning

Project Partners

Language Education & Partnerships Ltd (LEAP), UK
<http://www.leaponline.eu>

Bridgewater Primary School, (UK)
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Fondazione Cresci@mo, Italy
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Preschool Misolandia, Poland
<http://www.misolandia.com>

CEIP Gloria Fuertes, Spain
<http://mestreacasa.gva.es/web/ceipgloriafuertes>

Joint staff trainings

- Text and Images (UK)
- Story telling techniques (PL)
- Use of comic and film making (ES)
- The world around us: sounds and colours outdoors (IT)

Project overview

In response to the increased importance being placed on developing innovative ways to ensure that all children can communicate and express themselves, the VITAL project aims to develop innovative ways to use visual literacy in teaching in early years and progressing through primary education. There is a clear understanding of visual literacy as part of a comprehensive communication education (at all levels).



Primary focus:

Five partners from 4 countries will work collaboratively to develop and share their knowledge and skills in order to:

- address the challenge to increase key competences for children in order for them to fully participate in and contribute to society, by developing a robust and tangible methodology that employs methods to support development of basic skills through the use of visual communication/ literacy techniques
- equip teaching and non-teaching staff with a range of skills, key principles and relevant methodologies to integrate and support communication through the use of visual literacy techniques and tools
- develop a set of training materials and best practice teaching activities which will support a wide range of settings across Europe and support integration of those coming from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The project ultimately aims to develop applicable and teachable skills and materials which build on sound principles of visual communication and literacy. Specifically it focuses on the use of storytelling, digital narrative techniques, use of art and media and the outdoor to develop creative strategies for integrating all children especially those coming from a disadvantaged background in education.

The project foresees staff and pupils working together to develop a number of resources.

Staff will engage in a number of joint training events in the UK, Poland, Spain and Italy which will then be cascaded to other staff in schools incorporating new methods, with pupils actively involved in developing work to share and showcase with their peers across the project countries.



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Vital

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Partnership meeting in Alzira , Spain

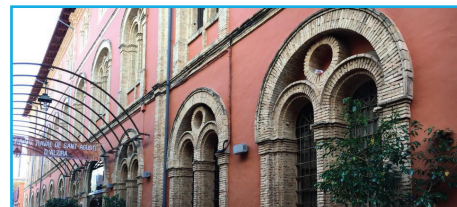
The first partnership meeting, hosted by the CEIP Gloria Fuertes School, Alzira, Spain, got off to an energetic start with a welcome parade by staff and pupils in the school playground involving flags representing each of the partners' countries. This was followed by a tour of the school and observation of classes.

The two day meeting commenced with discussions on the content, aims and objectives of the project which led to exploring the project outcomes and developing a detailed work plan for each output with time frames and the roles and responsibilities of each partner.

The partners agreed on the dates and format of the four joint staff training sessions, which will run over the next 2 years, and discussed the development of the training packages that will be devised around these workshops. They discussed the importance of dissemination to staff and pupils and the gathering of work produced.

The partners were introduced to the Vital website and a Blog has been created for this specific project.

They were made really welcome on their visit to Alzira not just by the staff and pupils but also on a private visit to the town hall hosted by the Mayor and other local dignitaries. The Partners' visit to the school even made it into the local press!



Joint Staff Training in Walsall, UK

The first joint staff training event was organised by LEAP and held in November 2016 in Walsall, UK. The theme of the event was Text and Images.

The training took place over a period of five days and focused on developing literacy through visual narrative with particular emphasis on the use of text and images to convey meaning.

The use of visual diaries was introduced with each individual creating their own diary incorporating their ideas and thoughts in response to the training activities and their other experiences throughout the week.

The training included exploring and discussing the key principles of visual communication with a variety of practical activities to demonstrate different techniques.

On day 3, the partners attended a Printmaking workshop at Blists Hill, Ironbridge and created individual and group prints using two different types of techniques. They were also able to put into practice their newly acquired photographic techniques while visiting the various sites around this recreated Victorian town.

The school visit on day 4 to Bridgewater Primary school, Northampton was of particular interest to the partners. Some of the school children acted as "guides" and showed the partners around the school in small groups. They were able to observe class lessons, meet the children, talk to staff and ask lots of questions!

The final day focused primarily on developing an action plan for cascading and implementing the skills, knowledge and learning experience back into the project partner countries.



Upcoming events:

The next joint staff training will take place in Bydgoszcz, Poland in May 2017.

To find out more about the project and how you can benefit from our joint staff trainings and materials, visit:

www.visualsinteachingandlearningproject.eu