

Talk and Oracy Checklist

1. Classroom Environment

- Seating arrangement encourages face-to-face interaction
- Visual aids support discussion (e.g., word walls, question prompts)
- Rules for respectful discussion are visibly displayed

2. Teacher Modelling

- Demonstrates active listening skills
- Models clear and concise speech
- Uses a variety of question types to promote discussion

3. Structured Talk Activities

- Think-Pair-Share opportunities
- Group discussions with defined roles (e.g., leader, scribe, reporter)
- Debates or structured arguments
- Presentations or show-and-tell sessions

4. Vocabulary Development

- Introduces and explains new topic-specific vocabulary
- Encourages use of precise language and full sentences
- Provides opportunities for students to use new vocabulary in context

5. Questioning Techniques

- Uses open-ended questions to encourage extended responses
- Implements 'wait time' after asking questions
- Encourages students to generate their own questions

6. Listening Skills

- Teaches and reinforces active listening strategies

- Provides opportunities for students to summarize or paraphrase others' ideas
- Encourages students to build on or respectfully challenge others' contributions

7. Non-verbal Communication

- Teaches and encourages appropriate eye contact
- Discusses and models effective body language
- Addresses the importance of tone and volume in speaking

8. Inclusive Practices

- Ensures all students have opportunities to contribute
- Provides support for EAL students (e.g., sentence starters, visual aids)
- Differentiates talk activities to support various needs and abilities

9. Reflection on Talk

- Encourages students to reflect on the quality of their contributions
- Provides opportunities for peer feedback on oracy skills
- Guides students in setting personal goals for improving their talk skills

10. Cross-curricular Application

- Integrates talk-based activities across different subject areas
- Highlights subject-specific language and discourse styles
- Encourages transfer of oracy skills between contexts