



CRITICAL SKILLS PROGRAMME Newsletter

Welcome to Issue 6 of the CSP Newsletter



Happy Anniversary CSP! It's been 10 years since the first UK CSP event was held in Edinburgh. I've just returned from a short holiday in the Scottish capital. On previous visits, I have seen the airport, Waverley Station, the King's Manor Hotel and whatever has lined the bus routes between these locations!

This time I took a few tours - the Castle tour, Mary King Close tour, open-top bus tour. Interesting, entertaining....information overload!

Between tours, I explored 'Auld Reekie' on foot. I was able to revisit places that I'd seen from the bus. Some grand buildings and hidden 'closes'; quirky cafes and restaurants where I could listen to the conversations of the locals; beautiful gardens and lots of steps! It's only when you leave the tourist routes and explore at your own pace that you get a real sense of a city's identity.

Perhaps it's a bit like encountering the Critical Skills Programme. On an institute we get the 'bus tour'! However, it's only when we start exploring at our own pace that we begin to get to a real sense of what we're dealing with. Unexpected, breathtaking visits and occasional blind alleys! So in the words of Nancy Sinatra...'Are you ready boots... start walking!'

Andrew

CRITICAL SKILLS AT AMBERGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

We first embarked on the Critical Skills adventure just about 3 years ago, but now it feels like (and looks like and sounds like) a way of life!!

The governors asked me to undertake a full evaluation of the impact Critical Skills has had on our school in this time. We invited in LA inspectors, we asked the children and parents. We invited in headteachers from local schools and even Pippa and Jo came along to have a look at us. All these people said the same thing: Critical Skills is working very well at Ambergate Primary School. The governors are delighted! I discovered that it has impacted on every aspect of school life in some positive way. The aspect that we are most pleased about is the positive impact on the children. They said that it makes learning more fun and it helps them to learn better because they are "doing it themselves" and people get along together". The staff is a wonderful team. We have a common language to share our understanding of teaching and learning using Critical Skills. The school community share the ideal. And we all have a great deal of fun!

The training was the best money we have ever spent.

Caroline Webster
Ambergate Primary School

Quote of the Week

This has been the most inspiring and life changing course I have ever been on. I have learnt so many more ways to make teaching even better than it already is.

Everything has focused on "the child" and how to make their learning more active, inspirational and fun - this really excites me as I really believe this is what children need.

**Sarah Hutchinson - Ashcombe Primary,
North Somerset**



PHOTO OPPORTUNITY AND FEEDBACK

We would love you to send us any stories or Photos (with permissions) you have of Critical Skills in action at your school, so that we could use them for future newsletters or the websites. Please send stories and photos to marie@criticalskills.co.uk

Community Builder SECRET DETECTIVE



Why Play it?

- To provide fun.
- To reach group consensus
- To develop questioning skills

How to Play

- Sit in a circle (including facilitator)
- Decide on a category, e.g. object in the room, celebrity, job, colour.
- Choose one person to leave the room
- The group decides on the answer
- The individual returns and has ten questions to try to guess what the group have decided. they can only ask questions with 'yes' or 'no' answers.

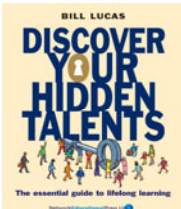
Possible Debrief

- Skills needed? ASK debrief
- Being positive with incorrect guesses
- Good questioning strategies?

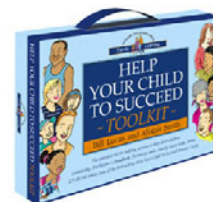
Why not...

- Give the 'guesser' a clue by allowing them to choose a person to act as the celebrity, job etc.
- The facilitator and four individuals leave the room and decide on a job or film to act, they return and the group have ten questions to guess the answer.
- Try using to teach aspects of the curriculum, e.g. properties of shapes—has it got six vertices etc.

For more Community Builders why not buy one of our Community Builder packs for only £12.95, details on how to purchase a pack can be found on page 2 of the newsletter.



NEW BOOKS AND CD FOR SALE



The following new books and CD can now be purchased from Troubador at a fantastic low price, but we only have a limited number in stock. For more information about the new books visit www.troubador.co.uk/shop

TITLE	RRP	CSP PRICE
Move It (Alistair Smith) Movement for Learning for all ages	£24.99	£10.00
Discover Your Hidden Talents (Bill Lucas) Professional & Personal Development	£50.00	£10.00
Reaching Out To All Learners (Cheshire LEA) Summary of Brain Based Learning	£5.99	£2.00
Pocket Pal: Involving Parents in Schools (Bill Lucas) Teachers Guide to Involving Parents	£6.99	£3.00
That's Science CD (Tim Harding) Fun Songs for Children's KS2 Revision	£22.99	£5.00
Help Your Child To Succeed Toolkit (Bill Lucas & Alistair Smith) Excellent Pack of Materials for Involving Parents	£100.00	£30.00
Help Your Child To Succeed Facilitator's Handbook (Bill Lucas & Alistair Smith) Teachers Guide Only out of the above Pack	£25.00	£10.00

Prices are exclusive of Postage & Packing

Personal orders can be made online or by telephone with a credit or debit card via our distributors, Troubador Publishing Ltd, www.troubador.co.uk/shop, 0116 255 9312.

Institutional orders should be made, with a purchase order, to Troubador Publishing Ltd, 9 De Montfort Mews, Leicester, LE1 7FW.



STOP PRESS!

**Open Training
Events for 2009**



Level One

Date and Venue

Level 1A - 09-14A
Level 1B - 09-14B

18-20 May 2009
5-7 October 2009
Kings Manor, Edinburgh

Level 1A - 09-16A
Level 1B - 09-16B

8-10 July 2009
7-9 October 2009
Manchester Cathedral
Visitor Centre

Level Two

Date and Venue

Level 2 - 09-L2.10

14-16 October 2009
The Chimneys Hotel
Manchester

If you would like further information or booking forms for the above institutes please contact:
Marie Matty (England and Wales) on 01455 840066
or email marie@criticalskills.co.uk or **Maria Hybszer (Scotland) on 07854 414512** or email maria@criticalskills.co.uk.

BOOKS AND POSTERS FOR SALE!

To purchase the following books and posters, please contact Troubador, details above.

Title	Price
COMMUNITY BUILDER PACK (NEW) by John Baudains with Lynne Williams and Andrew Pearce	£12.95
CSP Level 1 Posters (full set of 15 up to date brand new posters)	£24.95 (inc VAT)
Towards Successful Learning (written by Di Pardoe)	£19.95
Critical Skills in the Early Years (written by Vicki Charlesworth)	£19.95
Leading the Learning School (written by Colin Weatherly)	£16.95
Transforming Teaching and Learning written by Colin Weatherly with Bruce Bonney, John Kerr and Jo Morrison)	£16.95
Level 1 Coaching Kit (original USA version)	£19.95
Level 2 Coaching Kit (original USA Version)	£19.95
K-3 Coaching Kit (original USA version)	£15.95
Tools for CSP Classroom (original USA version)	£15.95

CSP PROGRAMME MANAGERS - CONTACT INFORMATION

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DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: www.criticalskills.co.uk