Round Table:
Language teaching in the Primary

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Context

• National Curriculum: entitlement to foreign language learning in KS2 from 2014
  • Weekly teaching not specified – in most schools, below one hour per week
  • Expectations high and somewhat unrealistic

• Rationale:
  • Compensate for the loss of language learning post-14
  • Young children are thought to be better at learning foreign languages
What we know about language learning in primary years

• Learning primarily implicit, by ‘doing’ rather than explicit learning

• Implicit learning requires large amounts of input

• Working memory still developing, so revisiting learning important

• In instructed context, wealth of evidence that younger children are slower at learning languages than older children and adults

• Young children highly motivated to learn languages
Issues and challenges

• Realistic expectations

• Teacher training

• Teaching materials

• Transition to secondary

• Etc...
Possible points for discussion

- Adapting materials for young learners
- Fostering motivation
- Link between secondary and feeder school
- Catering for different primary school experiences when arriving in secondary
- Others...
RiPL – Research in Primary Languages

• [www.ripl.uk](http://www.ripl.uk)

• 7 themes

• One-page summaries of important research studies

• Events

• Resources

• Etc...