



Round Table: Language teaching in the Primary

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**CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN
LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT
THROUGHOUT THE LIFESPAN**





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
- 7 themes
- One-page summaries of important research studies
- Events
- Resources
- Etc...