



Community Worship at South Baddesley CE Primary School – Developing Public Speaking

Your child has asked to lead a Community Worship on: _____

The topic of their worship is: _____

They will be speaking:

- As an individual
- As a group

Your child will have time at school to prepare this worship. You can also help them to prepare at home. The following guidelines might be useful.

Why is public speaking useful for children at South Baddesley CE Primary School?

Most people, at some point in their life, will need to stand up and speak in front of a group of people. Teaching children the necessary skills for doing this will therefore help them to do this more successfully.

As a result of the practice, pupils often report an increase in general confidence as well as a marked sense of achievement. Some pupils get nervous the first time they have to do a speech in front of their classmates but with practice the nerves subside and they usually begin to enjoy the whole process.

Working on public speaking also helps to develop childrens' overall fluency and requires them to consider how they speak as well as what they say. This is useful for speaking in any situation, public or otherwise.

What techniques can we teach our children?

Structure

Stress the importance of having a beginning, middle and end and keep reminding them of this. You might then like to give them a standard introduction to use for their first speech. For example, "Good morning. My name is x and today I am going to talk about y. I will talk about three main areas, x, y and z'. This then gives them a focus for the structure of the rest of the speech. It can seem a little dry, however, so once they get the idea it's worth experimenting with different styles of beginning – e.g. using jokes and anecdotes.

Body language

There are various statistics for how much of our communication is done through our body language – they seem to hover around 70%, which is a massive chunk, so some work in this area is a very good idea. Encourage children to think about:

- **Posture:** try to stand straight and well-centred
- **Gestures:** what type of gestures might be helpful in the speech? Stress the importance of keeping gestures controlled.

- **Eye contact:** encourage speakers to make some eye contact with all areas of the room.

Chunking (pauses and stress)

This is a technique which can help speakers to sound much more confident and increase the overall effectiveness of their speech.

To practise this, try playing your children an example of a speech – such as Martin Luther King's 'I have a dream'. Ask them to listen and identify the stressed words and pauses from a small section of the speech and then practise delivering it in the same manner.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gdTpU5WZHMM>

A common problem is speaking too fast, usually caused by nerves. Try getting them to do the introduction of the speech in an exaggeratedly slow manner. Once they have done this a few times they may find it easier to find a middle ground.

Most importantly, please support your child with this event and help them to enjoy it. We are really proud that the children at SBS are so keen to share their interests with the school community.

Thank you in advance for your support with this.

Warm regards

The SBS Team