



Helping your son prepare for the ESB over half term:

The talk:

Learners talk about an object, model, picture or piece of equipment in some detail, explaining its importance. For example, they may talk about: *something they have seen, made or assembled; a collection they are developing; or the kit or equipment for a sport or game they play* or an object/pet that is special to them.

Please spend time over half-term choosing something with your boys to talk about. There is a sheet for them to fill out to help them to structure their talk. Ideally, the talk isn't a rehearsed piece that they have learned off by heart. The boys who do the best in their talks often have key points with which they are familiar and can talk about fluently.

They should support their talk by using a relevant visual aid or create a photo board of pictures to help them if the object isn't available.

Examiners are looking for talks which are clearly structured, with originality throughout. They would like fluent speech, which is delivered spontaneously throughout. The performer's voice and speech should have vitality and delivery should be at a sensible pace. The talk should be built around a chosen object and presented confidently and competently with enthusiasm.

Reading:

Learners should prepare 4-5 pages (containing dialogue) of a fiction book, from which the assessor will choose an extract to be read aloud. They must also introduce the book, stating which character they would like to talk to.

The examiners are looking for books, which choose a balanced range of narrative and dialogue. The performer should give the title and author clearly, tell us what it is about and explain what character they would like to talk to. When they read, their voice must be clear and lively.

Poem:

Learners begin by giving the title of their chosen poem, the poet's name and a detailed reason for their choice. They should then recite their poem to the group and the assessor, sharing the content enthusiastically.

Examiners are looking for an introduction to the poem, which includes the title and poet and a detailed enthusiastic reason for their choice. They are aiming to be secure in their words with no prompt required. Ideally the performer will have vitality in their voice and use facial expression. The mood or spirit of the poem they have chosen can be shared by the performer with understanding and enthusiasm.

Prompt cards to start discussions about your object or topic:

What is the object? What is your topic?	Where did it come from? Describe the main 'steps' – how did you achieve/learn about/ make?
How did you first find out about your object? How did you first find out about your topic?	What is your most interesting fact about the object? What is your most interesting fact about the object?
When did you discover your object? Is there any special equipment needed for your chosen topic?	Why do you want to talk about this object? Why did you want to talk about this topic?
What is it used for? How can other people get involved in your topic?	What do you love about it? What do you love about it?

Sentence starter ideas:

Opening

- You're probably wondering why.....
- This may look like an ordinary.....
- Here is...
- This is...
- I have something I would like to show today...
- I'd like to tell you about...

Main Body

- I really love this because...
- Another reason this is important to me is...
- What you might not realise is...
- At first glance, you might think...
- What I was most excited to discover was...

End – I hope you have enjoyed finding out more about.....

- That is why I have come to believe
- I think/I realised that...
- My (object) is so meaningful/valuable/ important to me because... and I hope that you agree.

<p>Opening What is the object?</p>	
<p>Main Body What do I know about my object?</p> <p>What is it used for?</p> <p>Why do I have it?</p> <p>When did I get it?</p> <p>Where has it come from?</p>	
<p>End Why do I think you will be fascinated by my object?</p> <p>Why is it special to me?</p>	

<p>Opening What is the topic of my talk? Try to start in an interesting way. (Something achieved, made, grown or learnt)</p>	
<p>Main Body Why have I made the choice to talk to you about this topic?</p> <p>What do I know/have I learnt about my chosen topic?</p> <p>Why is it important that everybody knows about my topic?</p> <p>What interesting facts can I tell you?</p> <p>How does my visual prop (object or PowerPoint) link to my topic?</p>	
<p>End Why do I think you will be fascinated by my topic?</p> <p>Why is it special to me or relevant in the world nowadays?</p>	