



Developing Debating Skills – Training for Children & Young People

Why?

- Debating develops speaking and listening skills
- Speaking in front of an audience builds confidence and self-esteem
- Debating builds critical listening skills and the ability to respond to what other people are saying. Being able to see things from a range of perspectives is a real life skill
- Written work improves as debating helps students understand how to structure their work and make their points clearly.
- Debating helps develop research skills.
- Debating broadens horizons and encourages exploration of big ethical questions.
- It is highly validating for children to be asked for their opinion, and shows them that their thoughts and voice matter
- Recent research from the University of Bedfordshire and the English-Speaking Union revealed that **learning to debate can improve children's SATs results** by between six and 19 per cent in all subjects.

Impacts

- "I learnt how to be persuasive and how to organise my arguments which helped with my writing"
- "I became more confident in speaking and this helped me get elected to the School Council."
- "We went to other classes and showed them how to debate – they loved it. We now have a debating club."
- "Debating is a life skill that has helped me with my university applications."

Objectives - To develop:

- **Reasoning and evidence:** turning facts and statistics into a strong argument
- **Expression and delivery:** being able to speak with the right pace, tone, language and body language to engage an audience and convey an argument.
- **Listening and responding:** listening critically to the other side's argument, and developing a well-reasoned response.
- **Organisation and prioritisation:** knowing how to structure speaking, and when to make points

Course Outline

This practical day session covers working with a class on developing their persuasive speaking including one, pace, choice of language, body language and how they choose and develop their points to win an argument as well as how to rebut points and put the counter arguments. They will also be taught the formal debating process. The afternoon session will take the form of a mini debating competition.

For more information, cost and to book a place please contact info@L3Education.co.uk