

BSL Primary Curriculum Meeting Record

6th Meeting

Friday 7th December 2018

Topic: BSL Linguistics

Training was delivered by Dr Kate Rowley focusing on BSL Linguistics -how we use this terminology, what elements of BSL Linguistics we should include in the BSL Curriculum and why we learn BSL Linguistics.

BSL Linguistics: We teach language to children, linguistics is the study of language, so we need to be careful about where and how we are using 'BSL Linguistics.' We use structure, grammar, rules when teaching children and the vocabulary used with this. This does not mean we need to teach children the study of language, teaching them to learn the linguistic jargons of BSL as we do not do this in other languages, so this is worth considering.

Top 5 Signs: The signs that are most commonly used are referents. The most commonly used sign is 'ME.'

We use 'ME' / referring to ourselves in so many sentences daily and this is an important note.

Which means it is important to ensure that we use and refer to referents in the BSL Curriculum.

Multi-Channel Signs: It is preferred that we do not use this anymore as it was first coined years ago where non-manual features with mouth patterns with signs were classed as Multi-channel signs. However, a lot of signs we use daily require all of this: facial expressions, mouth patterns and signs so this classed as BSL Signs with Mouth Gestures.

BSL Linguistics Course: We would like to set up a training course for BSL teachers working with the BSL Curriculum. Teaching BSL with a better understanding of our language will make us better teachers. Asked for suggestions of what we would all like to learn:

- Depicting Signs e.g. Classifiers
- Question Types e.g. Open/Closed Questions
- Progression of linguistics e.g. handshapes then/or classifiers...
- Games e.g. minimal pair games, movement play, handshape games
- Difference between phonological signs e.g. the letter 'A' and the sound 'aa.'
- How to modify signs / BSL Grammar / Signing Sentence Structures
- Developmental ages
- NMF Inflections / Mouth Patterns / Using gestures / Eye Contact / Role-Shifting
- Workshop of ideas, activities, resources, sharing things that have worked well

Agreed that in the course, we would work on incorporating activities where we can create resources, games, ideas to take away and use when teaching the BSL Curriculum.

Dr Kate Rowley and Catherine Drew will have a meeting to discuss setting up this course in 2019.

Useful resource: BSL Corpus Project.

Has video clips of various deaf signers showing discussions, conversations where signs were recorded and collated with regional sign variations into a BSL SignBank. This is a useful resource to refer to or to use in teaching BSL.

BSL Corpus Project: <https://bslcorpusproject.org>

BSL SignBank: <http://bslsignbank.ucl.ac.uk>

BSL Primary Curriculum Meetings

Confirmed dates for 2019:

- Friday 8th February 2019
- Friday 5th April 2019
- Friday 7th June 2019
- Friday 13th September 2019
- Friday 15th November 2019

All meetings will remain 9.30am to 12pm.