

Images that Assist in Expressing Thoughts and Feelings



NOTES FOR TEACHERS

Using the images in the expresspack to encourage communication and expression

As its name suggests, the express pack is a simple activity that can be used quickly, to encourage learners to express ideas, thoughts and feelings.

We know that in many circumstances it is easier to talk through the 'filter' of an image than it is to express ideas and concerns directly. Talking about the picture provides a feeling of safety that encourages and develops a more open and honest communication.

Teachers are experts in using pictures in curriculum related areas and will see immediate opportunities to use the images in the pack for language-based learning. Examples include:

1. The development of vocabulary
2. The development of descriptive and creative writing
3. As a stimulus for story-telling
4. In developing the use of questioning and listening skills

There are no specific applications of the expresspack that apply only to students. Teachers should consider it a resource that can be used to encourage and support other learning activities. However, we know that potential employers value fluency in oral communication and that this is assessed very rapidly in interview situations. Any activity that encourages students to think and respond confidently in conversation, and to deal with unexpected questions, is important in their preparation.

Examples of specific activities that build these skills include:

1. Select a picture card at random and talk about it for a timed period (for example 30-60 seconds). Encourage observations skills ("What I am seeing in this picture is....") as well as interpretation ("This makes me think of....")
2. Choose a number of cards and group them together. Explain what the connections are (eg. "I have grouped these cards because they all represent memories I have from my childhood....")
3. Select a card or cards which represents something that is important to you and explain it "I chose these cards because they make me think about the impact we are having upon our environment and that is something I feel very strongly about....")