



A Little Bridge ... for everyone to learn English!

INTRODUCTION

Little Bridge is an online platform where children from around the globe can make friends in a safe, fully moderated, English-speaking community. For children who require help with their language skills, Little Bridge also includes an award winning, pedagogically sound English learning program. Full of structured games and activities, this gamified learning tool helps children of all ages to learn the skills they need to quickly become confident and capable speakers of English.

With the increasing focus from the Government on providing effective EAL provision in the UK, Little Bridge is excited to be part of the solution. We are already working with schools, local authorities and charities across the country, helping EAL students, refugees, and their families, learn English successfully.

As well as being used to great effect inside classrooms, Little Bridge is proving to be an excellent tool in out-of-hours clubs and Family Literacy projects; bringing together communities through learning a shared language. With its inclusive representation of ethnicities, lifestyles and its disability-awareness, Little Bridge not only covers language skills, but also the much talked about 'British values', key to successfully integrating new members into our communities.

Case Study : Springfield School, Hackney, London

Angela Hunt (Teacher)

Why do we use Little Bridge at Springfield?

Springfield school has an incredibly diverse cohort, with 80% of our children speaking English as an Additional Language. Children arrive at Springfield speaking Polish, Turkish, Portuguese, Spanish, Urdu, Romanian and Arabic to name a few. As such, we are always looking to support our EAL children with their language acquisition and understanding as well as supporting their families with the same process. When we discovered Little Bridge we knew we had found just the thing for us.

The unique selling point of Little Bridge, and the reason why it is proving to be so successful with children, parents and staff is the impressive interface and 'playability' of the software. Little Bridge effortlessly provides huge amounts of entertainment and engagement whilst supporting children with their learning. Children and parents consider Little Bridge to be a treat and never have we ever experienced children not wanting to spend time with their virtual English friends - precisely the opposite is true!

How do we introduce our children to Little Bridge?

We have done a big push throughout the school with teachers including Little Bridge as part of their homework and using it in whole class sessions.

Following the BETT show, Springfield became an affiliated school which allowed all of our children and staff to access the Little Bridge software. The programme was launched during staff training and a whole school assembly was run to show children what they now had access to.

Letters to parents were also sent home and children started to be exposed to the program both in school and in their homes. The popularity and success of Little Bridge has meant that we have extended what we offer to our students, including a weekly Little Bridge club is now run after school where children who do not have access to computers at home have the chance to practise their English skills! We have had 27 children sign up – with more on the waiting list!



We also made Little Bridge log in cards that have proved to be very popular and allowed children to be more independent about when and where they use the programme. We have run Little Bridge assemblies where children share what they have been getting up to and we have documented some of our children's learning on our class blogs.

Our reception teacher runs a language group for parents to show them how they can be supporting their children at home.

Why Little Bridge works for us

Behind this wonderful interface is a robust and well thought out scheme of work that takes children and their families through the steps they need to successfully learn the English language and develop their comprehension.



Little Bridge has provided teachers with another tool to be able to breakdown the EAL barrier and has encouraged them to think 'outside the box' when it comes to this immersive learning style. To make lessons fun, engaging and dynamic to support children on their English journey.

The scope and sequence documents are particularly useful for teaching staff to be able to pinpoint the specific skills they would like to teach and so include these activities in their whole class teaching or interventions. Using Little Bridge activities as a starter or plenary is now a common occurrence, whole class sessions as well as guided intervention groups have been built around the programme and we are seeing children making excellent progress.

What has been the impact of using Little Bridge with our students?

The areas we have seen the greatest impact is with children's speaking and listening, levels of vocabulary, retaining and retrieving information - and probably most importantly their confidence.

Extending Little Bridge

Probably one of the most exciting areas of Little Bridge success has been with our parental ESOL project. Little Bridge complements perfectly the work we are doing with our parents who want to improve their English and we now regularly have parent coffee mornings and after school sessions that are based around the software. Showing parents how to access Little Bridge has given them the confidence to be able to support their children at home and learn alongside their children. All parents new to the school who are EAL are invited to a coffee morning so they can see how the software can support their journey.

The pupil's view

Saba arrived at Springfield last November with no English at all. She used to talk to everyone in Spanish and was clearly disorientated by the move. After meeting with her parents, Saba has been using Little Bridge every day to build her vocabulary and understanding. You can clearly see how she has improved in this video:

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

Family Learning

Little Bridge has certainly become a firm favourite here at Springfield, as the smiles on these faces of our 'new mums' show!



Little Bridge Ltd.

Ugli Campus | 56 Wood Lane | London | W12 7SB

Tel: +44 (0) 20 8935 5689

Email: hello@littlebridge.com

www.littlebridge.com

Copyright © Little Bridge 2019