



# Enabling Children's Thinking; Developing Physical and Mental Thinking Moves to Promote Talk about Learning

Research indicates that teaching and fostering metacognition in the early years can significantly impact learning and academic achievement.

Evidence suggests the use of metacognitive strategies, which get children to think about their own learning, can lead to up to 7 months additional progress, when used well (EEF Metacognition and Self-regulated learning guidance report). However, while the potential impact of these approaches is very high, particularly for socio-economically disadvantaged pupils, less is known about how to apply them effectively in an early year's setting.

## DIALOGUE WORKS



QUESTION



ORDER

***If we can't put it into words, can we really translate it into actions.***

In a recent EY SPH survey, practitioners reported limited knowledge and confidence around how to support children's meta-cognition skills. Educators struggled to articulate how they support children's meta-cognition and list the key approaches/practices they use. If we can't explain it, then are we effectively supporting children to talk about their learning?

In response to this dilemma, with are hosting training with DialogueWorks, our Thinking Moves training will present the complex subject of 'meta-cognition' in an accessible format – in the context of 'talking about learning'. The training will be based around introducing 6 Key Thinking Moves, linked to 6 key practices from the Evidence Store;



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- Thinking aloud – Question thinking move,
- Planning and sequencing - Order thinking move,
  - Making Links – Connect thinking move,
  - Recapping – Think back thinking move,
  - Predicting – Think forward thinking move,
- Drawing attention - Zoom in and look closely thinking move.

For each thinking move there is a symbol and an action, children in participating settings will be able to begin to talk about the skills they use to learn, as they use the moves as memory prompts.

Children's vocabulary will hopefully increase, as adults model the moves.

In order to support the implementation of the training, we will also be hosting 3 follow-on webinar sessions, spaced over two terms (Autumn/Spring 26). These sessions revisit and deepen practitioner knowledge of early meta-cognition.

## Who can register for this round of Thinking Moves Training:

Open to primary schools with nursery classes and Maintained Nursery Schools.

1 days face-to-face training

Date: Monday 3rd November 2025

Time: 8:30am – 3:30pm

Venue: Manor Farm Conference Room, Walsall

To express interest in the training please click on the link below;

<https://forms.gle/KpmopVx87euxPFWs6>



CONNECT



BACK



AHEAD



ZOOM