

PRIMARY TALK PROJECT

Westover Green is taking part in the '*I CAN*' Primary Talk Project, it is an exciting development, which will help us provide a language friendly environment to help all our pupils achieve well and have a greater understanding of the world around them.

I CAN has formed a partnership with Somerset Total Communication and Somerset Local Authority to develop vocabulary and communication skills in primary school children. *Primary Talk* is an accreditation system for primary schools and it is *I Can's* aim that the programme will follow on from their award winning *Early Talk* programme and be available nationally in 2009.

The standards in the resource are designed to help all school children at key stages 1 and 2 to develop the communication skills they need to fully participate in the curriculum and succeed in education and beyond. It hopes to promote communication supportive environments for all children and ensure effective school based provision for children with speech, language and communication difficulties.

Primary Talk is currently being piloted in Somerset, Bradford and Walsall. Regional advisors with a teaching and language therapy background have been appointed in each area to implement the pilot programme. Feedback has been extremely positive.

An evaluation of Primary Talk is being carried out by the University of Sheffield. Results of their study will be published in March 2009.

We hope to develop the use of Somerset Total Communication in school and the use of symbols to reinforce vocabulary for topic work, especially science and maths, and also to provide extra resources for literacy. In future we hope to have some parent workshops to help parents share the work done in school.

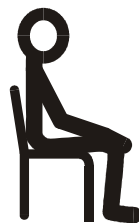
The new initiative will be helpful for all children, but particularly those children who have English as a second language and those with communication difficulties. It will also improve behaviour as children will have clear expectations of what they must do.



Hello



Goodbye



Sit down



Listen