

## Informal Book Talk: Notes for PowerPoint

### The section of the website devoted to this includes:

- A self-review document
- A mini-film of a teacher and researcher discussing book talk
- Practical classroom strategies (10 ideas)
- A summary of the research
- Examples of practice (from teachers)

### Preparation before the meeting

- a) Select a short story or picture fiction book to read aloud and use as your 'book in common' for this session. Choose something staff will be less familiar with, but a book that is accessible in the short time.
- b) Open your browser and open the website at the [Informal book talk, inside text talk and recommendations](#) section
- c) Print copies or open the [Review your Practice document](#)
- d) Open the videos ready to watch: [Informal Book Talk](#) and [Developing Informal Book Chat](#)
- e) Download and make copies of the poster: [Informal Book Talk Poster](#)

### Discussion and activities during the meeting

- **Slide 2:** Share the aims of the session
- **Slide 3:** Share the key findings from the 'Teachers as Readers' research, which highlighted 4 key pedagogies to effectively develop RfP. Informal book talk is one of the pedagogies.
- **Slide 4:** Share the key findings from research about why informal book talk matters.
- **Slide 5:** Read aloud the chosen text to share and invite participants to have their own informal book talk. They can use the prompts given or just have their own chat. Share some of the ideas that were discussed and their experiences – did they enjoy this? What were the challenges?
- **Slide 6:** Watch the video and ask participants to make notes of anything that surprises or interests them. Afterwards reflect on what they noticed. How is informal book talk different from other discussions we might have about reading?
- **Slide 7:** Use the poster to discuss in pairs, what informal book talk is – how similar or different is this to what they thought? Share with the whole group
- **Slide 8:** Use the table to support a further group discussion about what informal book talk *is* and *isn't*. When feeding back to the whole group, pick up any misconceptions.
- **Slide 9:** Prior to displaying this slide, ask participants what they think the benefits of informal book talk might be and then compare this to the points on the slide.
- **Slide 10:** Use the prompts on the slide for participants to orally review and share their practice or use copies of the [Review your Practice document](#) for them to complete and identify their areas of strength and areas for development.
- **Slide 11:** Use the prompt questions to explore –
  - Who might we talk to?* Adult to child, child to child, child to adult, peer to peer, buddies
  - When might it happen?* Anytime, anywhere – ask participants to think through the day and identify times when informal book talk could happen e.g. the lunch queue, at break, in the corridors, on the playground. Discuss how you can create the right ethos and relaxed environment for informal book talk by everyone in the community joining in.
  - What do we talk about?* Reflect on their own informal book talk at the start of the session – discuss possible openers 'I wonder...', 'I like...'. Share and make a list of ideas.
 Watch the video: [Developing Informal Book Chat](#) to explore how it might develop.



- **Slide 12:** Summarises some key points for getting started. Allow time for discussion of any challenges to be overcome (e.g. time, resources etc.)
- **Slide 13:** Hand out or view the [Practical Classroom Strategies](#) document from the website with 10 more ideas. Use the slide to give 2 possible strategies to start informal book talk:  
*Book Blankets: Layout a selection of tempting texts and give children time to browse the books. Ask children to choose a book they might like to read and then encourage them to share and chat about their chosen book with a friend. This can be enhanced in various ways – see an example of practice here for more ideas: [Book Blankets](#)*  
*Carry and Chat: Members of staff carry around their latest read and pause to chat informally with children around school at various times during the day.*  
For further examples and ideas use the [Classroom Strategies document](#) on the website.

### To close: Planning ahead to develop informal book talk

- **Slide 14:** Ask participants to discuss which aspect they would like to develop further, as an individual or year group. Each commit to an area and a timescale to complete the work.
- **Slide 15:** Show participants on the website where they can see more examples of practice and access all the documents used in this session, to support their work.
- Set a time for sharing developing work – maybe visiting each other's classrooms and sharing on the OU RfP website?