

The cLc Learning Platform is supporting teaching and improving learning outcomes in schools around the world. These Best Practice examples enable teachers to share experiences, ideas and recommendations to support and aid other teachers tackling the same challenges.

Find more cLc Best Practice along with curriculum maps and 'How To' guides & films at www.clcsuccess.com

School: Westbrook Old Hall Primary School	LA: Warrington
Teacher: Gina O'Rourke	Students: Year 3
Contact: gorourke@staffmail.co.uk	
Learning Focus: To increase parental engagement in children's learning.	
Curriculum Focus: History > Toys	
Tools used: Forum	



Our Favourite Toys

This discussion forum is just for fun! Children and adults are invited to add their ideas...

Children...
Think about your favourite toy? Why is it your favourite toy? How long have you had it for? Do you play with it on your own or with a friend?

Parents/grandparents...
Think about your favourite toy when you were a child? Why was it your favourite toy? Have you still got it?

<p>my favourite toys</p> <p>My favourite toy is The Master Chief from the Halo game series. It is my favourite because it is my first halo toy. I play with it both alone and with friends. Created By Thomas Martin</p> <hr/> <p>My favourite toy</p> <p>My favourite toy is my Nintendo DSi. I have 25 DSes. My favourite DS is Ben 10 protector of the earth. Created By Prithvi Raj</p> <hr/> <p>Cuddly dino</p> <p>I have a cuddly Gigantosaurus (Dinosaur) and I call him Ganta. I love to play with him and I will keep him for my whole life because it was my 1st Cuddly dinosaur and my dad bought him from the Early Learning Centre.</p>  <p>Created By James Bell</p>	<p>My favourite toy</p> <p>My favourite toys are GoGos They are small plastic characters which all have special names, colours and powers. I have been collecting them since January 2009 and I have now got nearly 80 of them.</p>  <p>My Favourite Toy By Melissa's Mum</p> <p>When I was a little girl, a long time ago, I loved to play with my toy which was called Clackers. They were 2 golf ball sized yellow hard plastic balls on rope held together with a small plastic handle. The aim of the toy was for the two balls to make contact by singing them up and down. They were quite dangerous and I frequently had bruises on my knuckles. Good Fun though!</p>  <p>Created By Melissa Morgan</p>
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How this worked in practice: The team at Westbrook Old Hall Primary School have been exploring different ways to engage parents with their children's learning. At the beginning of their new topic of Toys, children were asked to carry out a simple piece of homework which was to identify their favourite toy and discuss some key associated features – such as why this is the favourite toy, and how it is played with. Children were also asked to invite their parents and grandparents to respond to these same questions. Children, parents and grandparents were asked to add these responses to a forum set up for this purpose on the school cLc learning platform which can be seen above. Children were able to work alongside their parents, with parents modelling the activities and children teaching their parents how to add the entries, thus giving both children and adults expert roles. In addition this activity encouraged dialogue between parents and children discussing the child's curriculum topic.

By the end of this sequence of work children had developed skills in:
ICT: Word processing (Forum editing) Uploading Images to the cLc
Learning: Self and Peer Assessment, Parental Engagement, Audience & Purpose

Next Steps: Children can now continue their curriculum conversations with their parents and if they wish use their eportfolio learning journal blog to record this.

The named teacher has kindly agreed for this example and the relevant contact details, to be shared within the cLc community for other teachers benefit.