

The Young Interpreter Scheme: keeping Young Interpreters engaged.

Debra Page | Astrid Dinneen | Naomi Flynn | Ludovica Serratrice |

Introduction

- The award-winning Young Interpreter Scheme (YIS) - developed by Hampshire Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS) - is a school-friendly programme that supports learners with English as an Additional Language using trained 'buddies'.
- Young Interpreter (YI) buddies are taught to use their language skills to facilitate the transition to school for peers who are new to English.

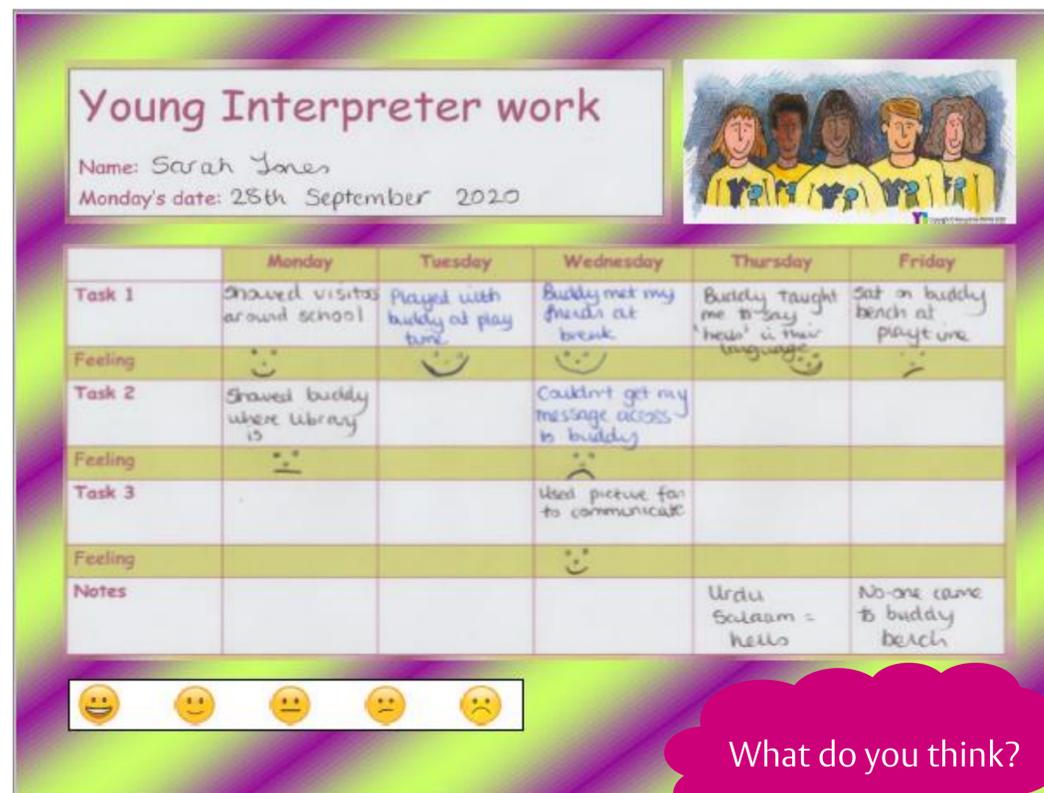
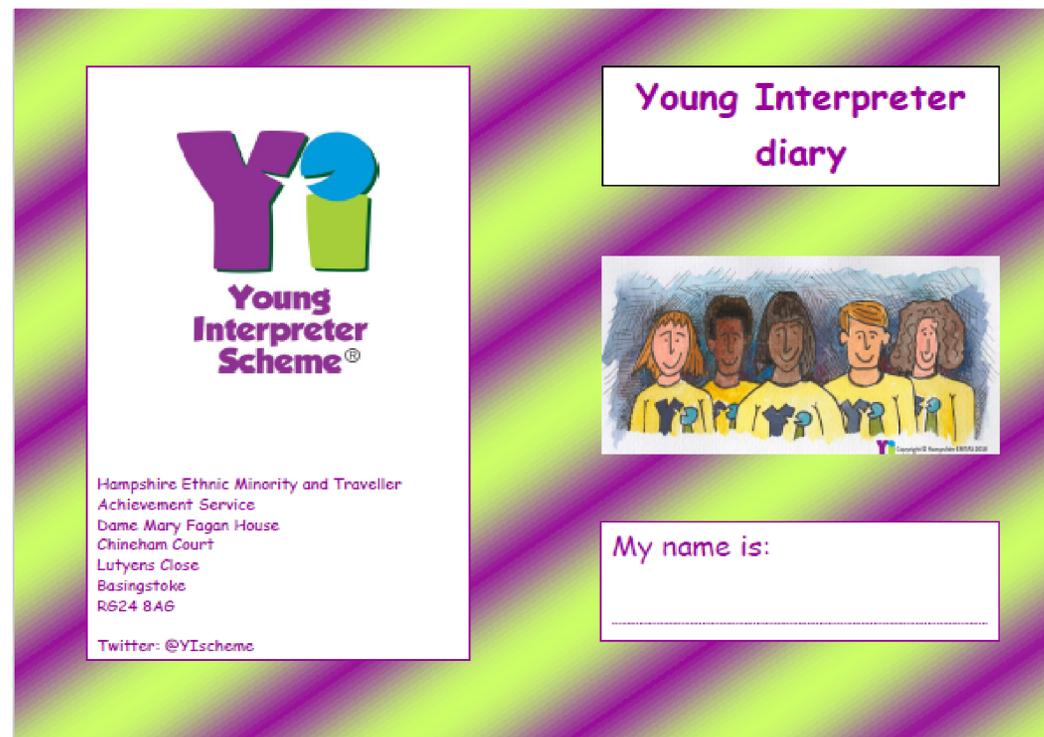


Study aims

- To compare Young Interpreters and children who are not scheme members on
 - the linguistic features of their peer-to-peer input to novice EAL learners,
 - their metalinguistic awareness,
 - their levels of empathy,
 - their intercultural awareness,
 at three time points; immediately before and after their Young Interpreter training, and a ~6-month follow up.
- Given the longitudinal setup of the study, recording YIs' activities is an integral part of the project.

Contact information

- School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences, University of Reading, Earley Gate, RG6 6ES
- Email: debra.page@pgr.reading.ac.uk



What do you think?

Why create a YI diary?

- For research purposes –
- Important to record
 - The frequency of YIs' work.
 - The type of tasks YIs engage in.
 - How YIs feel about their tasks.
- For schools –
- Important to keep YIs motivated.
 - Encourage YIs to reflect on:
 - Things that worked well.
 - Things they could do differently.

Findings from using the YI diary.

- **YI Co-ordinators** report that the diaries are
 - good to use in YI meetings to discuss what the YIs have done.
 - nicely formatted and something to give to the children.
 - better suited to the early stages of being a YI.
 - tricky for experienced YIs; they don't always recognise their YI work as a task to write down because it is second nature to them.
- **Young Interpreters** report that
 - they like the colours.
 - it adds to their YI kit.
 - writing in them can be a chore.
 - sometimes they don't know what to write.

To find out more about the project, scan the QR code.



Read more