

Lower ability and SEN support

Miss Clayton and Mrs Simpson both used SignSpell with their lower ability classes, but in very different ways. SignSpell has been created to be flexible and encourage inclusivity within a class with a wide range of abilities, resulting in varied benefits to complement different learning environments.

Joseph Swan School, Gateshead.

Tyne and Wear

Teacher name	<i>Mrs Marie Simpson</i>
Year	<i>Year 7</i>
Average class size	<i>14</i>

Summary:

Mrs Simpson used the SignSpell resources with her Y7 Nurture Group as a literacy activity.



How was SignSpell incorporated within the curriculum?

Mrs Simpson is a Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) within her school, where she works with the management team and children directly to organise Individual Educational Plans for children with additional needs, ensuring the child is able to access the curriculum and achieve their full potential.

‘I used SignSpell with my Year 7 ‘Nurture Group’ as part of a literacy lesson. The children really enjoyed the unit! It was fun and helped break down barriers within a difficult class with a range of SEN.’

Teacher’s opinion:

Mrs Simpson noted a variety of benefits from using SignSpell:

‘SignSpell enables communication and helps greatly with general life skills; it definitely helped build confidence. I can see how SignSpell helps in areas of teaching such as literacy and spelling and I would definitely use them for that purpose in the future.’

Along with the books, Mrs Simpson used the online resources, flashcards and the teaching notes for guidance.

‘We all thought the books were bright, colourful and engaging. Although the characters were aimed at a younger audience the children still enjoyed the unit, especially the online resource.’

‘The teaching notes are good and detailed; they are definitely a time saver. Overall, I liked the concept and introducing the new BSL aspect helped with inclusion between the different ability levels within the group.’

For Teachers, From Teachers

‘A key benefit of SignSpell that stands out to me is how social it is and how it encourages children to participate and build on their communication skills.

I will be using SignSpell at the start of the year to build relationships between staff and students.’

Mrs Simpson