

A Level English Language students visit Little Gates



As part of the A Level English Language course, Sixth Form students study Child Language Development. This includes the study of literacy skills of reading and writing. Students are encouraged to carry out their own observations of children's language, focusing on both written and spoken forms. These observations are highly beneficial as students are given data to analyse in their examination.

At Gateways, we are very fortunate to have the ability to gain insight into the world of children's language as we house children aged from ages 2-18 years. This means we can conduct our own linguistic observations on-site. Our current students were very excited when they were invited to join pupils in Little Gates to observe their use of language. Students first observed pupils from Pre-Reception and identified the interaction between the care giver and child. Students were able to apply the theories learned in class to this session. They observed the use of child directed speech by staff as they communicated with the children and encouraged their speech. Positive reinforcement was used to reward the children and questions were used to engage children in conversation.

Following this, students observed pupils in Transition and were able to perceive the development in the language used. Here, the students observed literacy skills and identified the stages of grammatical and lexical (word) development. Children were excited to share their success in reading and happily chatted about their writing. Thank you to Mrs Bartle for allowing us to visit and observe the children. It has been a tremendous benefit to their understanding of child language.

Mrs Marae Burns