

## Talking Photo Albums

Talking Photo Albums allow practitioners and learners to insert pictures and writing into double-sided plastic sleeves. Using simple controls a user can record and playback narration on each page. These albums are perfect for producing talking stories, diaries, non-fiction texts and sound-enabled scrap-books.



The emphasis on speaking and listening is particularly supportive for learners of English as an additional language (EAL). There is the opportunity for bilingual learners to record in their first language as well as encouraging oral use of English across the curriculum. Recordings are saved to a memory card or hard-disk so that they can be backed-up to a computer and subsequently used for assessment purposes.

### Ideas for using Talking Photo Albums

For induction of new arrivals:

- make a talking book about their new school, family, home country or journey to the UK
- develop a scrap book about themselves – hobbies, skills, favourite music etc.
- keep a diary about their first few weeks in their new school
- be introduced to their new classmates via a named photo and a recording made by each child
- build up a background for a persona doll e.g. photos, writing in first language, speech etc.

For family learning and home-school communication:

- establish a homework journal with clear explanations in English and potentially other languages
- suggest that a learner keeps a holiday journal when making an extended visit abroad
- encourage fathers who are away from home for long-periods to record a bed-time story for their child
- enable learners to keep a record of their achievements in the continuing study of their first language

For ongoing curriculum-related work:

- build glossaries (bilingual, where appropriate)
- develop storyboards with captions
- make talking stories e.g. traditional tales and stories from other cultures – these could be recorded in first language, English or bilingually
- create non-fiction texts with narration around specific topics/themes
- plan upcoming work with audio notes
- use as a Talk for Writing approach
- display work e.g. narrated artwork or photography, performance poetry etc.

Talking Tins provide a simple way of recording and playing back short audio recordings. Yellow tins have a maximum recording time of 10 seconds, whereas red tins can record for up to 40 seconds. Accessories for holding the tins are also available - magnetic backs, straps and plastic holders



Talking Tins are perfect for developing collaborative learning activities. Their portability and easy recording/playback are perfect for encouraging exploratory talk that is particularly supportive for learners of English as an additional language (EAL). There is the opportunity for bilingual learners to record in their first language as well as encouraging oral use of English across the curriculum.

## Ideas for using Talking Tins

Supporting new to English pupils and beginner EAL learners:

- validate a learner's voice e.g. EAL pupils who are emerging from a silent phase can record in a private place and playback in a whole class setting
- pronunciation – pupils can record and playback speech in order to improve pronunciation
- bilingual recording e.g. keywords in English and first language
- labelling objects around the classroom
- talking visual time-tables
- oral versions of written instructions
- oral feedback by a practitioner about a piece of work

Use multiple tins to develop speaking and listening games and activities:

- sorting, matching and sequencing exercises
- oral storyboards
- interactive displays
- treasure trails with oral clues

For family learning and home-school communication:

- send a message home on a tin (in English or first language) and await a reply from parents
- oral explanation of a homework task (in first language where appropriate)

[Talking Products - https://www.talkingproducts.com/educational-resources.html](https://www.talkingproducts.com/educational-resources.html)