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Debating in class improves results

Encouraging pupils to argue and debate in class can help boost their results in English, maths and science, according to research.

Getting primary school children to explain their answers and reason with their classmates can help youngsters to make more progress in these core subjects, it suggests.

A total of 78 primary schools in England with higher-than-average numbers of poorer children took part in the trial of "dialogic teaching", published by the Education Endowment Foundation.

Around 2,500 nine and 10-year-olds were given lessons in which they were encouraged to explain their answers and reasoning, and to debate, discuss and argue with others about them. An independent evaluation found the youngsters who took part made on average two months more progress in English and science than a similar group of pupils who did not take part.