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NEWS BULLETIN

Pupils' brainpower increased by arguing

Teaching children to argue with their classmates may help improve their English, maths and science.

In research by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF), a charity, 2,500 nine- and 10-year-olds at 78 primary schools took part in a trial of "dialogic teaching", in which they were encouraged to discuss and argue with others about their test answers. Those who took part made on average two months' more progress in English and science than in a similar group of pupils who did not take part, it was discovered. This indicates an overall improvement in thinking and learning skills, rather than just their subject knowledge, the EEF said.