

## ***Puppets: talking science, engaging science***

### **Summary of independent evaluation**

An independent evaluation of the Professional Development Project was carried out by Square 2 Learning during 2007-8. The main data sources were:

- observation of training sessions (3)
- evaluation forms from training sessions (total 873)
- follow up questionnaires to training organisers (11) and participants (15)
- follow up telephone interviews (15)
- school visits with follow up interviews (15)

The main findings were:

- A large number of teachers describe the sessions as amongst the best CPD they have ever had, and almost all teachers enjoy the sessions greatly
- They are clear about the benefits to pupils of using puppets to uncover and explore pupil misconceptions, and in generating more meaningful talk in lessons
- The complete package of the CPD session, puppets and real-life scenarios provided in the CDs and books is very well-received
- The delivery of the sessions is seen as engaging, in that the tutors use demonstration, hands-on tasks, videos and provide many ideas for use in lessons
- By attending the sessions teachers believe they have the materials to begin to develop their own pedagogical skills involving puppets on returning to school, and most have the confidence to at least try and do so
- Teachers leave the sessions keen to share with others in their schools
- On returning to school, teachers are using puppets to enhance their teaching of science - in many cases they are doing so regularly and with great enthusiasm
- Many gain further confidence once they start to use the materials in earnest
- Teachers indicate that the idea of using puppets in science is seen to be effective for both pupils and the teacher – especially in the way they change their approach to questioning and dialogue with pupils
- The applications of science to the real-world, through the CD and book scenarios, are popular with teachers and pupils
- Many pupils reportedly find the use of puppets very engaging and enjoyable
- Teachers believe their pupils' skills and understanding in science improves through the use of the materials and their own newly-acquired skills
- Many share what they have learned at the sessions successfully with colleagues.

If you require further detail of the evaluation, please contact Stuart Naylor by email:

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