An Introduction to Philosophy for Children

The aim of a thinking skills programme such as P4C is not to turn children into philosophers but to help them become more thoughtful, more reflective, more considerate and more reason-able individuals.

P4C programme by Lipman

- Effie (5 – 7) General Reasoning and Enquiry
- Kio and Gus (5 – 10) Exploring Nature
- Pixie (5 – 10) General Reasoning and Enquiry
- Harry (9 – 12) General Reasoning and Enquiry
- Lisa (12 – 15) Ethical
- Suki (13 – 16) Expression, Writing, Poetry
- Mark (14 – 17) Sociological

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### Impact of P4C – research findings

- Children gained on average 6 standard points on a measure of cognitive abilities after 16 months of weekly P4C.
- Pupils increased their level of participation in classroom discussion by half as much again following 6 months of weekly P4C.
- Incidents of children supporting their views with reasons, doubled over a 6 month period.
- Teachers doubled their use of open-ended questions over a 6 month period.
- Pupils and teachers perceived significant gains in communication, confidence, concentration, participation and social behaviour following 6 months of P4C.

### Typical P4C Format

1. Sit in a circle
2. Share a story, text or other stimulus
3. Ask (philosophical) questions
4. Choose the best question
5. Identify the key concept
6. Listen to other perspectives
7. Apply critical and creative thinking
8. Consider progress
An Introduction to P4C

The four C’s of P4C

Collaborative  Caring  Critical  Creative

Community of Inquiry

Colliding concepts

Truth and Opinion
Biodegradable and Reusable
Hero and Villain
Happy and Content
Dreams and Daydreams
Decision and Order
Child and Youth
Lies and Make-believe
Toys and Books
Karma and Revenge

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