

# Jobs

These ideas can be used for

- Cross-curricular topic work involving children's different languages
- Language classes in the community
- MFL classes

See also resources on powerpoint ([link](#))

A nursery teacher and a Bengali class teacher devised lessons to compare the jobs people do in England and Bangladesh. The nursery class began with a local area walkabout to spot different workplaces. In both classes, children worked in small groups with photos as a stimulus for animated discussion. Vocabulary development was adapted to each age group; nursery children worked on initial sounds of words in English and Bengali, whilst community class children wrote in Bengali script, Bengali transliteration and English.

*The Bengali-speaking nursery teacher and visiting community teacher couldn't remember the word for 'fisherman' in Bengali, so gave children the word for 'fishing' instead. Later one four-year-old commented that the word wasn't right: 'it's fish-catching not fisherman', showing his well-developed metalinguistic skills - he knew the difference between a word for a person and for an activity. The community teacher then remembered the word for 'fishing' and the child was satisfied.*

## Resources

- Photos of places where people work (post office, restaurant, bakery etc) taken during walk round local area
- Photos of people working in different jobs in Bangladesh and other countries (from Bangladesh photo pack and internet)
- Keywords in Bengali and other languages (can be provided by parents)

## Lesson structure

- Invite parents to come into class and talk about jobs in UK or elsewhere
- Children work in groups each focusing on a local photo and an international one, share experiences of work they have seen people do here or when visiting home countries
- Children brainstorm words arising from photos, in English and other languages – write where possible (visiting parents can help)
- Bring back answers, compare them and discuss issues arising
- Focus on vocabulary: teacher scribes words offered by groups, compare words in different languages (meanings, phonemes they begin with...)
- Take photos home and build vocabulary in home language with family
- Interview parents/grandparents about jobs they have done, write up

## Aspects of learning

- Engaging children (including nursery age) in discussion at a challenging level
- Identifying differences in working conditions in different countries
- Recognising that products we use (eg rice) depend on work in other countries
- Metalinguistic skills: phonemes that are similar and different across languages, component parts of a noun such as 'fisherman' in different languages

## Home-school links

- Draw on parents' experiences of jobs in the UK and home countries
- Children use own visits to home countries as a resource for learning in discussion with families and classmates