

Overhead projector

When did you last use an OHP in your classroom?

Did you know the overhead projector is one of the few teaching aids that was actually invented for educational use and not adapted from an instrument intended for entertainment?

Why is it not used more often in our classrooms?

The following suggestions are designed to re-kindle your interest in the overhead projector and start you and your pupils experimenting in OHP classroom use.

Teach the Skills

- Have the projector permanently set up with a tilted screen above the blackboard.
- Teach children the skills of using the OHP.
 - **It should be switched off when they are not referring to it. (Leave the fan running)**
 - **they should face the class and read from the transparency, not the screen.**
 - **a card should be used for masking material on the transparency until it is needed.**
 - **a small pointer should be used rather than a finger to highlight notes or certain features of a presentation. The pointer is used on the transparency.**

Retelling of Stories

- Use it for retelling of stories with cutout silhouettes of characters and events from the story made by the pupils.

Map Reading Skills

- Using the photocopier, make a transparency of a map for teaching map-reading skills and learning mapping symbols.
- A Silva compass placed on the map is excellent for learning compass and orienteering skills.

Science

- For natural science, beasties and insects will be magnified many times for observational drawing and study.
- Particle dispersion in water is clearly seen by placing Condy's crystals in a small plastic container of water on the plate.
- Photocopy the weather chart in this issue on to a transparency for the children to present the weekly weather summary.

Art & Craft

- Colour mixing in art can be demonstrated by mixing the colours on a transparency and the changes observed as they are happening.
- Challenge students to invent a colour and give it an imaginative name.
- Coloured cellophane crumpled up and left on the screen provides exciting patterns of light and colour for art stimulus.

Music

- Music charts can be made and displayed on the screen so all attention is focused in one place.

Language/Social Studies

- Children present material from group discussion topics in any subject area, using the OHP, on a regular basis.

- Photocopy off stories and poems on to transparencies. The pupils can read them out to the class and they can be seen and shared by the whole class as well. Great shared oral reading!
- Note taking and summaries of discussion work are completed by the children.
- One recorder in the group prepares the transparency and children take it in turns to use the OHP to present their findings.

In Summary

If the OHP is set up permanently and the children get into the habit of using it daily, they will find many more interesting and exciting ways to use this, at times forgotten, but extremely effective teaching aid that was designed especially for classroom.

Remember it is a motivational tool which captivates students of all ages and focuses attention in the one place.