

MPs Talk Back!

**The Cambridgeshire Parliament for
People with Learning Difficulties**

research into the experience of MPs

**Working Together for Change
conference 2 March 2007**

MPs Talk Back – research team

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MPs Talk Back – research aims

In the MPs Talk Back research we wanted to:

- find out how we could make the Parliament for people with learning difficulties better
- show how we could work together.



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SpeakingUp
voice | action | change

MPs Talk Back – what we did

- **regular team meetings**
- **made a leaflet**
- **ran a focus group with current MPs**
- **tried out ice breaker activities and use of ‘shields’**

MPs Talk Back – what we did

- decided on questions to ask**
- sent letters to MPs we wanted to talk to**
- talked to 20 MPs**
- used real objects as reminders**
- used shields to sum up ideas**

MPs Talk Back – finding out what the MPs had to say

MPs seemed to like:

- meeting on their ‘home ground’**
- reminders of the Parliament**
- summing up ideas on shields**
- getting feedback – shields and leaflets.**

MPs Talk Back – what MPs told us

- **being an MP changed their lives**
- **Parliament helped to change other people's lives**
- **MPs had strong feelings about Parliament**
- **talking, listening and being listened to are important**

MPs Talk Back – what MPs told us

- **about practical issues – buildings, food, transport**
- **how the Parliament worked**
- **how to make Parliament better –
more support, more control,
more advocacy, making more of a
difference**

MPs Talk Back – What did I do?



I helped to choose another research worker



- a big discussion**
and need to meet before work started

MPs Talk Back – What did I do?



My ideas for the focus group:

- fun icebreaker and shields**
- make them feel comfortable**
- let them say what they wanted to say**

The focus group went well –

interesting ideas.

MPs Talk Back – What did I do?



The leaflets –

my ideas for words and pictures



MPs Talk Back!

MPs Talk Back – What did I do?



Planning for interviews –

**my idea to have things
to remind people about
Parliament**



MPs Talk Back – What did I do?



Analysis – taking a close look at what MPs said –

- counting how many people said what**
- putting ideas from shields into categories.**

Analysis was fun to do – the BEST day.

MPs Talk Back – What did I do?



Before we went to Parliament to tell them about the research we:

- planned the presentation**
- planned some group work**
- made a powerpoint**
- made a leaflet**

MPs Talk Back – What did I do?



I presented to Parliament:

- **they understood what we were saying**
- **they listened**
- **we got new ideas from them**



MPs Talk Back – these are things I found difficult



- **choosing a research worker**
- **being interviewed when you know the questions**
- **having to change ‘hats’**
- **being a leader in Parliament**
- **then being a researcher too**

MPs Talk Back – reporting so far and what next

- **report to Parliament**
- **article in Louder!**
- **conference in Cambridge – spring 2007**
- **more articles**
- **better research**

