

# Creative Teaching and Learning reviews...

**Maisie Gould** takes a look at Jason Buckley's guide to getting started with Philosophy for Children – a small book bursting with big ideas and even bigger questions.

## Pocket P4C – Getting Started with Philosophy for Children

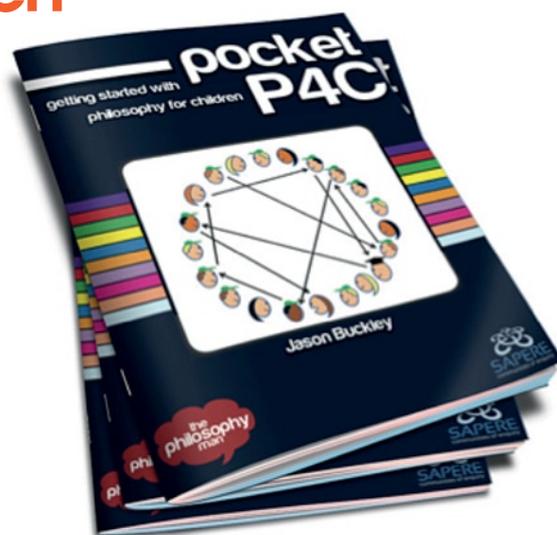
**By Jason Buckley**  
**One Slice Books Ltd, 2011**  
**Price: £2.50**

If you're interested in trying out a Philosophy for Children style enquiry with your students but aren't quite sure how to get started, look no further - this book is the perfect introduction to P4C! It's easy to understand (even for someone fairly new to the concept like me), brimming with brilliant ideas and, as the title suggests, pocket sized, making it the kind of book you can imagine keeping close at hand, ready for when you need a bit of inspiration.

Structured a little like a guidebook, the first half of the book takes you through the ten stages of a P4C enquiry, from set-up and warm-up activities right through to reflecting on how the session went, offering a raft of ideas for alternative approaches along the way. For example, the section 'Building' includes a list of devices for engaging more speakers if the discussion stalls, and also a list of ideas for slowing down the discussion if talking begins to outpace thinking.

The second half is equally as practical. There are suggestions for incorporating P4C into the broader curriculum, advice on helping children feel safe during a discussion which might make them feel vulnerable or exposed, and a list of 'juicy' enquiry questions – examples of which include, 'Can you think wordlessly?', 'Would living forever be boring?', and my personal favourite, 'Is this a real question?' In fact, there's so much here I'm sure even experienced P4C practitioners will find something new to think about.

Further highlights include a useful table explaining what makes a suitably juicy question to explore



and what doesn't (and it might not be what you'd immediately think!), and the question quadrant – a simple diagram visually demonstrating the kinds of questions a story or a piece of text might inspire. In the example, the questions are inspired by Jack and the beanstalk.

Each book also comes with a 'personal ponder' on the inside of the front cover. This is a philosophical question which Jason Buckley's website explains can act as an icebreaker at the start of your own staff training session – a really unique and interesting idea this, with plenty of potential for development.

An impressive amount of ideas in just 35 pages, practical and engaging throughout – this book is an effective and non-threatening way to introduce yourself and others to Philosophy for Children.

Pocket P4C is available to purchase here: [www.thephilosophyman.com/resources](http://www.thephilosophyman.com/resources)