

Practical hands-on ideas, games and activities for teaching young learners

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This was an interactive session, in two parts. The first part dealt with practical, hands-on ideas, games and activities that teachers can use in the classroom.

The second part looked at some areas of discipline that teachers may have to deal with, and went on to suggest that if lessons are fun, relevant and engaging, then the students are less likely to misbehave, and more likely to contribute to the lesson. In fact, the next session on discipline, led by Borja Uruñuela, followed on from this session quite nicely and logically.

Can life be easy, even if I teach Young Learners ... ?

Some things to consider ...

- *lessons work better if they're fun, relevant and engaging;*
- *lessons work better if they're personalised;*
- *chat to your students, during class, and outside of the lesson; get to know them as people!*
- *keep a points system – peer pressure (e.g. not to lose points!) can work wonders – but, do remember to offer rewards as well!*
- *make your instructions clear; anticipate what may go wrong in the way each activity is set up, and tell the children what they're not to do, as well as what to do – e.g. "if you run, scream, shout, you lose points"!*

... and if they're still acting up ...

- *don't shout: whisper! eventually, they'll want to hear what you have to say!*
- *talk to them on their own after class ... and again before the next class;*
- *don't make empty threats: if you say you're going to ring their parents, do so! if you've no intention of doing so, don't say it!*
- *remember, your DOS, or your YL co-ordinator is there to help you: it's their job! Don't suffer in silence!*

Interested in doing some further reading?

- ☛ “Teaching English to Children”, Wendy A. Scott and Lisbeth H. Ytreberg, Series Editor: Neville Grant, Longman Keys to Language Teaching, Longman, Essex, 1990
- ☛ “An Introduction to Teaching English to Children”, Susan House, Series Editor: Paul Seligson, Richmond Handbooks for Teachers, Richmond Publishing, London, 1997
- ☛ “Children Learning English”, Jayne Moon, Editor: Adrian Underhill, The Teacher Development Series, Macmillan Heinemann, Oxford, 2000
- ☛ “Teaching Languages to Young Learners”, Lynne Cameron, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2001 – (Winner of the Ben Warren International House prize, 2001)
- ☛ “Teaching English in the Primary Classroom”, Susan Halliwell, Pearson Longman, 1992
- ☛ CATS - Children and Teenagers – The Young Learners Special Interests Group (SIG) Newsletter, IATEFL

Thank you for coming to this session. I hope you've enjoyed it and found it useful. If you've any questions, comments or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me:

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Thanks again,

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