

THE PRINCIPLES OF TEACHING YOUNG LEARNERS

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Annotation: This comprehensive article examines the essential principles of teaching young learners and provides practical strategies for educators to effectively engage and support their students. The author emphasizes the importance of creating a safe and nurturing learning environment, developing age-appropriate instructional materials and activities, and fostering a positive relationship between teacher and student. Additionally, the article explores the use of technology and multimedia resources to enhance learning outcomes and addresses common challenges in teaching young learners. This is a valuable resource for educators seeking to improve their teaching practices and provide meaningful learning experiences for young students.

Key words: physical movement, linked activities, linguistic resources, scaffolding, theme-based lessons, management, English speakers.

Nowadays, most parents want their children to learn from a young age. But it is very difficult to attract young children to study. Because at this age they are more interested in playing and walking on the street. But after much research, scientists are coming up with different ways to make children interested in reading. And here, some methods of teaching young children will be given. The first method is **building teaching around physical movement and activities**. Learning will be interesting for children, when it will be mixed with games.¹ For example, while listening tasks, they can hear English for drawing and labelling pictures, matching words and completing puzzles, and other amazing games that will be played by hands, eyes and ears. Today, most teachers use an action drawing, which has a lot of useful tasks on linking language. There are also some ways to make listening tasks more interesting, such as activities which children listen and repeat the action, like “stand up”, “touch your head” and “clap with your hands”. Another game for listening is, hearing a task and choosing the right picture. This game is also very useful for coming to know about the theme. Identically, speaking tasks for youngsters involve many use of singing songs, making dialogues with partners in different situations.

¹ <https://www.professorjackrichards.com/methods-and-techniques-for-young-learners/>

The second method is **building lessons around linked activities**. Because of the limited attention in young learners, it is a main part of lesson, organising several short activities and jumping quickly from one task to another. Activities of five to ten minutes are most successful for teaching children.² There should be balance between the games, like noisy or quiet activities, teacher-pupil or pupil-pupil activities.

The third way is **building lessons around tasks**. A task means use children’s linguistic resources to do a task such as imagining and drawing pictures from oral instructions, or working with group for creating a story while watching the picture.

The fourth method is **supplying scaffolding**. Scaffolding shows how children learn lessons in collaboration with a partner who knows more than pupil, like parents, a classmate or a teacher. In this way, more knowledgeable partner can help to less knowledgeable partner to complete the task.

The fifth way of teaching children is **building lessons around themes**. Lessons would be built around themes and topics, such as fruits, animals, cities or family. Theme-based lessons supply progression in activities and connect the lesson with children’s life.³

The sixth method is **choosing content, which are familiar to children**. If teacher build the lesson around familiar topics to the children, it will be more interesting for them. And also it is easy to speak about familiar things, like culture or stories which are known to children, in English.

The seventh method is **using activities which involve working in group**. Children always feel excited when they will be in touch with other children. And it helps them to learn other languages more than sitting in their seats without moving.

The next method is **using the mother tongue when needed**. While the process of teaching young children is important to use as much English in class, when teaching homogeneous classes, it is okay using mother tongue while explaining the meaning of words and explanations.⁴

The ninth method is **using English for management of classroom**. If children use English words in their daily life, they can memorize words and structures easily.

The tenth way is **inviting English speakers to class**. If it is possible, the successful way of teaching children is bringing speakers of English to the class. They would be older students, who has advanced

²<https://www.oupjapan.co.jp/sites/default/files/contents/events/ota/media/PrinciplesOfTeachingYoungLearners.pdf>

³<https://www.teflcourse.net/amp/blog/the-main-principles-of-teaching-young-children-ittt-tefl-blog/>

⁴https://www.academia.edu/30354528/Teaching_Young_Learners_theories_and_principles

English degree or would be senior pupils from international schools. The lesson with them will be more interesting and useful for young learners.

In conclusion, today, it is a current theme teaching young children, and attracting them to the lesson. But with the given methods, we will achieve successful consequences.

References:

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