**Natural Approach to the Learning of English**

86th WKTC Daniel

How did you learn English as a second language? Did you learn it by memorizing, repeating, or translating? Like me, many people learnt it by memorizing the text book in Korea. However, it doesn’t show much result. Was there something wrong with the teachers who taught you English? Or do most people have no talent of learning a foreign language? My answer to these questions is “perhaps no”. I believe memorizing sentences is a good method of learning English. Then, what was the problem? I was just bored with English when I was a child. And that made me uninterested in learning it anymore. In order for children to acquire proficient English language skills, teachers should approach them with more natural methods. The teacher I want to be is one who is funny, who can understand children, and one who can make an enjoyable environment.

First, I’ll be a teacher who gets children to explore their interest. Also, a fun teacher makes children have an exciting time in the class. It is not easy especially for someone who is not fun by nature to be a fun person every class. However, teachers can try their class to be fun. For instance, teachers can prepare for the special English games, or organize the class very well to keep them amused during the class. Developing and exploring an interest in something is very important. I’ve seen many children at my work. Children who are interested in English practice more and study by themselves. On the other hand, children who feel bored with their English class don’t even do their homework, no matter how they are scolded by their parents. Thus, I will prepare thoroughly for my classes with a variety of fun activities.

Second, I’ll be a teacher who can understand students. If there is no communication with children, the class cannot be the best. That is to say, relation is the most important. But it’s difficult to be close with the young. Because teachers that are adults get stressed, they lose their composure. As I see it, children like talking about what they bought yesterday, what they did during the last weekend, or what they want to do now. Also, there are some children who are in difficulties waiting for teachers. But if teachers are not interested in what they say, teachers cannot be close, and never understand them. In my opinion, the teacher should be an expert of listening to the child with sympathy. Furthermore, teachers should approach them and open mind before they come to talk. Of course teachers have to only think students during work from their life.

Last, I’ll be a teacher who creates an enjoyable atmosphere when children learn English. Even if they are interested in English, children cannot make their English skills improved if they don’t expose to English or there is bad environment. These days there are many foreign teachers in school. However, many of them just speak their language with no thought of students’ level. So children cannot properly learn English during the short time to expose themselves. And their curiosity of English will died down because they think English is very difficult. That is one of the reasons why most students don’t participate in English class in Korea. Teachers should make environment that children learn it with fun and easy in order that their memories last long.

In conclusion, I want to be a teacher who has children have fun in their English class, who know what they want, and who create enjoyable atmosphere. Above all things, the first time is the most important. I would like to tell children who learn English for the first time that English is not only fun but also an amazing language. In order to do that, I want to learn a variety of teaching methods and interesting activities as I take this TESOL for Children class. If I do like that, I believe that I can approach young students as a better teacher.