112th wd 구지은 Jenn

1st Assignment

People learn foreign languages for many different reasons. Some might study English because they want to communicate with different people and some because they love language. It’s same for TESOL.

Although my job has nothing to do with teaching, there are several reasons why I decided to learn TESOL. Firstly, it’s because I love teaching and I’ve been teaching for several years for voluntary work. Since high school, I taught children in orphanages and schools who had difficulties learning English. However, since I had no knowledge of how to teach effectively, I started to wonder how good it would be to have teaching skills so that I could teach those children who are in need better. Secondly, I want to learn TESOL so I could actually apply the skills of teaching for my children and my nephews.

I started learning English when I was 6 years old. I got to acquire English naturally as I lived abroad. I came back to Korea in 2008 and I started teaching English, when I was in university, to children and adults. Mostly I taught young children and middle school and high school students as voluntary work, but I had chance to teach several students who are planning to go abroad. I mostly taught TOEFL, SAT, and things related to IB diploma, with the aim of helping students who are planning to go abroad prepare themselves for studying abroad. For adults, I helped them practice speaking mostly. For voluntary work, I mostly spent time speaking in English with the students, went over homework together, read books together, etc. For older students, for instance middle and high school students, I helped them prepare for the exams and had discussions on certain topics.

I’ve worked as interpreter and protocol of visits and foreign missions in different events including UN WFP held at the official Residence of the British Ambassador, several events held at the National Assembly of Republic of Korea, and few more. I have my own business as well that deals with trading.

There are few areas I want to focus on for teaching techniques. First area I want to focus on is creating activities that would draw students’ interest and motivation more effectively. Second, I want to learn about class managements. Because I’ve only taught one or two students at a time, I don’t know much as managing the class effectively. Not only that I think learning about class management could also help in doing business, in cases of having meetings and conferences. Third, as got to teach more and more students, I figured that there are many types of students. For example, some might be very good at memorizing vocabularies, but would suffer in putting those words together and forming sentences. Some might learn effectively by reading and do great job in speaking yet fail to write and listen. I didn’t know what teaching techniques to apply for each of those students and what would be the most effective method of teaching for different types of students. Although I do not wish to be a teacher, I still want to learn teaching skills so that I could apply it when it comes to teaching my own children and my nephew. Also, I still teach three children as a voluntary work and I want to apply the skills I learnt in TESOL to them as well, to help them learn English more successfully. Not only that, I want to teach my children, in the future, other languages, other than English and I believe the skills learnt in TESOL could be applied in teaching other languages as well.