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Games and Songs

Learning new language has always been a boring task for almost every single person in the world. Though many people buy language books to study, they get easily tired of studying them. However, as people get older and be mature, they get the ability to endure boring tasks of learning language because they have the purpose of studying it. On the other hand, kids are little different. Most of them study without definite purposes. To them, activities especially games and songs are keys to the successful learning. Though activities are not the primary purpose of learning, they are actually efficient tools that help children learn English by naturally leading them to get fully involved in the class.

Activities especially games and songs should be used wisely so that children can learn English while enjoying the class not just having fun. In other words, games, singings, and learning should be integrated into a lesson. Teachers' roles are important because they should be aware of the right time to start and stop the games. Plus, since every young learner has unique characteristics, teachers need to find games that students prefer in common so that they can get fully involved in a class. For example, as a teacher, I will first find out basic background and characteristic of each child by doing a short survey. Doing this can help me get the basic idea of learning type of each student. Then, I will make several games that both extroverted and introverted kids like. It is good to start with the quite games so that every kid has a chance to get comfortable with the classroom rules and atmosphere. Once they realize the classroom environment and get along with each other, it is good to do some more active games. However, I should make sure that I need to observe them playing the games as a supporter who help them

lead the games by themselves. Plus, I have to stop the games before they get bored so that they can continuously get interested in playing games in the future. In addition, teachers need to choose appropriate songs that contain rhythm and feelings since songs help children remember words and patterns of language. Furthermore, songs are one of the useful tools that can break the barrier between the classroom atmosphere and lives of children at homes. As a teacher, I would choose songs that have easy melodies with repetitive words. Plus, I would make sure that songs are combined with the actions that indicate each word so that they can remember words more efficiently by singing songs and showing actions simultaneously. I think it is better to introduce songs after they finish playing the games as post activities.

When students play the games, there are teams that are winning while others are losing. The weaker teams may get discouraged if there is no progress. This is the time when “cheating creatively” is used. “Cheating creatively” is basically the way teachers cheat fairly in order to make sure that all children have equal chances of winning the games. Some people are against at using it because they think it may make children rely too much on the teachers. However, I think it is one of the most useful ways to lead every child to get involved in the class. In other words, since they all have equal chances of winning the games, they can be encouraged by themselves for learning. As a teacher, I can give some useful hints to the teams that are losing and more difficult tasks to the teams that are winning. In addition, at the end, I can add one last round of the game that contains more points so that weaker teams that did not gain that many points have a chance to beat the winning team. By doing this, I can make sure that every child enjoys the class.

Though every child can eventually enjoy the games, they can be useless without clear introductions. In other words, the way children enjoy the games depends on teachers’ introductions. Introductions should not be long because longer the introductions, more children

can get confused. This means that they should be brief and clear by attracting the children. There are various ways to introduce new games to the students. As a teacher, I would first show several pictures or videos in order to get their attentions. Then, I would let them elicit key words that are relate to the game by watching pictures or videos. Once they seem they get the general idea of what they are going to do, I would explain the instructions and rules of the games step by step briefly. If children seem get confused, I will say, "Don't worry. I will do the demonstration how this game works right after the instruction." After the brief instructions, I will demonstrate quickly with two volunteers. Volunteers are just students inside the class. Since students have general ideas of how the game works after the instructions, they can be clear after observing the real paly of the game. This is the way I plan to introduce the game before they start off the real game.

There are various ways to teach young learners. Beside games and songs, traditional methods can be useful in some ways. However, children are young and teachers cannot expect so much things from them. Children are not familiar with the classroom atmosphere because they are quite afraid of doing social lives outside of their houses. This is the time when songs and games are needed because they break the wall between students and teachers. By the end of this TESOL course, I wish I could be the influential teacher who help young learners enjoy learning the pattern of English by using the songs and games wisely.