

Between Enjoying and Learning

After being a mother, I found myself it is hard to get even my own baby's attention. Now I fully understand why Kindergarten teachers need “something special” for their lessons.

Like exaggerated, high-toned voice, games and songs are necessary to help children immerse themselves in learning.

When children start using the expression naturally that they learned before without recalling, we ensure that games, singing and learning are integrated into a lesson. It means children are not only playing games and singing songs but also absorbing a new learning.

Human beings are unique.

So, we need to admit that children have all different preference.

If the children are quiet or too shy to talk, I would prepare the activity for sitting like board games, crosswords or singing songs etc. If they are totally opposite, then I had better choose the activity for moving around like doing mimes, blindfold games etc.

The more activities teacher prepare, the more children participate and learn.

As a teacher, I would use "cheating creatively" in my class definitely.

What I understand about this expression is stepping in the games to help the children who are less confident.

Giving all young learners same chance to play a game is one of the best ways to encourage them to enjoy and learn English.

It remind me of the first teamwork of this course.

The activity I needed to create with my partner was a board game. There were several blanks needed to be filled with modified, upgraded ideas for our future imaginary students.

However, we couldn't bring any ideas to our work.

We were a so-called weaker team.

Overhearing other team member's excited high-toned voices made me feel down and started losing interest soon.

Thanks to teacher's hint which was cheating creatively, however, we could look at it from various ways and started pouring our ideas into the board with enjoyment and confidence.

I think it is one of the major roles as a teacher to make a positive learning environment for children to be exposed.

That's the reason why "cheating creatively" is needed.

The most important part for introducing new game is finding appropriate attraction depend on young learner's preferences.

When children are willing to join the class, the half of my goal would be achieved as a teacher. At the same time, I need to make sure that the role of teacher is only a supporter, not a leader in the activity.

Here is an example how I would introduce new game to my young learners, 'Blindfold game'.

(Level-Intermediate / Age-8~9 years old)

I would elicit interest from children with animal pictures.

By playing a game "Slow Reveal", children could gain some attention to involve in their main activity.

I would choose two of their favorite animals and let children draw these animals on the board. And then draw a target around each animal with points in each circle.

Showing demonstration is much powerful than long instructions.

The instructions should be simple and clear; One member is blindfolded, the other member direct his/her partner to a target on the board by calling out.

It's the time to become an actor in front of all children.

While showing my exaggerated demonstration with wearing eye-catching animal character blindfold, they would understand how to do the game and get points for winning.

According to my young learner's level, I might let them face some challenge to keep their interest in the game.

For example, the blindfolded child has to spin round at the same spot before moving towards the board or let them draw the circle lines very narrow, so that he/she cannot find the target easily.

Learning doesn't mean memory test. Once children are attracted toward activities teachers prepare, they have a lot higher chances to get a new learning as a fun activity.

And we have to understand that different children learn in different ways.

I strongly believe that giving a variety of approaches is necessary for helping young learners reach their full learning potential.

Word count: 678 words