

To keep motivation high

In my opinion, motivation is the most important for children to learn English effectively. To improve children's motivation, games and songs are very efficient way of doing it because children can have fun with them. But there are some things teachers should be careful about when they use games and songs to teach in class. First, teacher should give a clear instruction. Second, teacher should make sure children to learn something from songs and games. Finally, teachers should make sure that everyone in class gets involved.

First of all, I would say giving children a simple and clear instruction is one of the most important steps to lead the class to success. When children understand the game clearly, they can feel more involved in the activity. So, teachers should give them an easy guide to let them know what exactly what they are supposed to do. The most effective way of doing this is explaining with demonstration and giving them ICQs (Instruction Check Questions). For example, if I play the game 'Alien Race' with the topic 'Restaurant', what I would do first is to prepare blanks on the board, which is an example of the game. After introducing the topic and the guideline, I will ask students to name any alphabet popped in their mind. When one of the students guesses the answer, I finish the demonstration of the game. Before getting into the game, I would do ICQ to make sure that all of the students understand the game well with the questions like "How many alphabets can you name?" or "What happen if the alphabet you say are not in the sentence?" Through this process of instruction, students will get more involved in the game with more confidence.

Secondly, children should learn something from games and songs, rather than just having fun with them. To do this possible integrating games and songs with learning is important. One of good ways of this is to make sure the core target language is learned and practiced before the activities. Moreover, repetition of chunks of language is also one of good ways. For instance, if I use a song "I you're happy and you know it" in class, I would let children to sing after me first like "If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands, if you're happy and you know it, put your hands up" And after repeating the song several time, I will give students chances to make their own sentence with their own motions. In this way, children can learn the chunks "If you're happy and you know it" when they make their own sentences. Therefore, I think it is important to preteach children the part they would learn through games and songs and repeat them to teach children through games and songs.

Finally, making sure everyone in classroom gets involved is important part of teaching, which can be done by cheating creatively in terms of motivation. The meaning of cheating creatively is that teachers give some tips for weaker children to cheat in a playful way when playing competitive games. There are some several ways of doing creative cheating such as giving weaker group some hints or giving stronger team more difficult language targets. I think it is important because children can keep their motivation high when they feel like they can achieve the goal. So, making the games more competitive by balancing with some hints will be a effective way of teaching.

In short, teachers use the games and songs mostly because students can be attracted to learn better in class, which is importantly related to high motivation. Doing this successfully, clear instruction and well integrated and balanced class are important in my opinion.