

A lesson with games and songs

Most people have learned English since they were young. Nowadays especially in Korea, English learning age is younger than before. So many teachers are interested in child-centered approaches to teach. How to let them feel deeply involved in the lessons are big concerns to teachers. Absolutely, games and songs are one of the effective ways of achieving the concerns.

How do we apply games and songs into our lessons well? Above all, one lesson needs one clear theme and purpose. What I mean is that, to be an integrated lesson, games and singing are prepared in line with a theme of the lesson. For example, if I want to teach various animals, I will prepare games and songs regarding animals. After introducing animals, students do games. One child reads a card that contains a sentence or phrase which includes an animal. The child then mimes the phrase or sentence and the other children guess what it is. Using charades, all children will learn enjoyable about animals. Also, teacher chooses animal songs such as 'walking into the jungle' or 'the biggest thing in the ocean' with specific motions. Using specific actions along with song makes children enjoy and remember well.

Also, teachers keep considering a whole class when using games. In other words, teacher helps every child enjoy the games. Cheating creatively is helping not winning team in a playful way. Yes. I would like to use it in my classroom. This is because that the central role of games is not to find the best winner but to build positive learning environment. So, games make children feel comfortable for coping with new words and learning. When they are having fun, they are more likely to take risks and make mistakes without having failure feelings. By using cheating creatively, all children can enjoy games even not winning teams and have a good chance of doing well in the games. I believe that one of the teacher's role is to encourage children who have less confidence and to draw the children's inner ability so that all children enjoy the competitive games.

Attracting the children's minds towards the games is important. When we introduce new games to

children, it has to keep attract children's curious. For instance, if I introduce card activity, I will call the activity as 'elephant nose is long'. The reason why I call the activity as 'elephant nose is long' is only for grab children's attention. Name could be anything that you want and relate with main theme of the day. Show many cards and pick two cards and make sentence using it. If my card is elephant and long, I will make a sentence that elephant nose is long. From my demonstration, children can guess what they can do now. In the first step, they will make a sentence using 2 cards. Few times later, I will gradually make children more difficult. In the next step, children pick 3 cards and make a sentence. In step three, children pick 3 cards and make a sentence using words in picking order. Changing rules lets children focus it.

In conclusion, when playing, singing, and learning are integrated into a total learning experience, the combination is very powerful. To form the constructive learning circumstances, teachers usually use games and songs. These are clearly in line with the lesson theme. Also, when game runs, teacher will monitor the whole class and help not winning team so that all children can enjoy the lesson.

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