

TEACHER'S CORNER – SEPTEMBER 2016

TEACHING YOUNG LEARNERS

Young learners present a special set of challenges and opportunities in the English language classroom. Younger students tend to have shorter attention spans and can lose focus more easily than older students. They may require more frequent breaks or opportunities to move around and also benefit from structure and routine. Often, younger students learn best by physically doing things and interacting with peers. As with students of all ages, young learners need to feel connected to what is being taught and involved in their own learning process. Additionally, young learners can present a special set of behavioral challenges if a classroom is not managed well.

The thought of addressing all of these needs may seem daunting, but with some careful consideration and planning, working with young learners can be a very rewarding experience for both teachers and students. The English language classroom for young learners provides opportunities to incorporate hands-on activities, music, movement, and visuals. Younger students learn best when content is presented in a consistent manner and repeated frequently, which can actually make preparation a bit easier for teachers.

This month in the Teacher's Corner, we will focus on four ways to increase success when teaching young learners in the English language classroom:

Week 1 - Creating a Visually Rich Classroom

Week 2 - Using a Daily Routine for Language Practice

Week 3 - Incorporating Opportunities for Interaction and Sharing

Week 4 - Using Music, Chants, and Movement

While the ideas presented this month are geared toward teachers of young learners, many of the suggestions can be adapted and applied to students of all ages, especially beginners. The main goal of the suggestions here is to create an interactive, content-rich environment where young learners will be engaged and have fun as they are learning.