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Article



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## SOME TIPS FOR INVOLVING YOUNG LEARNERS FOR THE LESSON

**Abstract:** This article focuses on the issue of teaching Young Learners and how to involve their short attention span during the lesson. It was given helpful ideas how to organize different kind of activities with interaction patterns and ways of using them successfully during the lesson. In addition to this you can have some tips for having good English classes with Young Learners with the help of language skills.

**Key words:** Teaching Young learner, attention span, involve for the class, challenges and difficulties in teaching, atmosphere of the classroom, learners` behavior, stages of the lesson, supplement effective activities.

**Language:** English

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### Introduction

The world is developing in every field of life and it should be mentioned that countries over the world could achieve much successes on social, economical, cultural and educational branches. The youth are stepping onto the stage of the world in different spheres and through this they are presenting the country in the worldwide. Their achievement on science, sport, art and cultural presentations is making the place of each state stronger in the world. All these above mentioned aspects helps to grow up real broad minded, wide outlook, creative and energetic youth. It happens when we try hard altogether. Therefore great portion of attention is paid for teaching foreign languages even young learners, especially English all around the world. Because English is considered as an international language in the first rank. Teaching languages with young learners are very enjoyable and on the other hand it is not easy. It demands much experience and especially good psychology of teacher in order to get to set up aims. So in this article we are going to have ideas about teaching successfully with the help of activities for involving young learners` attention span to our classes.

### Main body

As I mentioned above the attention span of young learners is very important in teaching and it is a lot shorter than that of older students. Young

learners need frequent opportunities to move around, take breaks, and interact. They also love to share information about their lives and experiences. In addition, children are very much linked to their surroundings and are more interested in the physical and the tangible. So every EFL teacher should be more creative with choosing materials for his or her lesson in order not to give his/her students being bored. Because young learners are always eager to move from one activity to the next. Let me share some useful ways for having an interesting classes with young learners. One way to make the learning more fun is to involve students in the creation of the visuals or realia. As a teacher we can ask our students to draw pictures of animals if we have the topic "Animals" in class or we can also have them make models of ones from plasticine. Another way for this is an activity involving young learners in making things by hand as a craft, for instance puppets for some fairy tales. By using puppets, pictures or models of animals we can ask our students to show the action of the story or as a project group work to act their story in role playing. All these will be very exciting for our young learners and they work in it with pleasure.

Young learners enjoy when teachers bring concepts and stories to life with real objects or props. Not only does this provide real life examples of content, it also helps learners feel more connected to the information they are learning. Incorporating these

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types of visual support as an authentic materials can be quite easy, and you can even involve your students in the process. For example, if you are reading with your students a book or story with new vocabulary related to a particular topic, you can bring in the items from home or have your students bring them. For example, if you are reading a book about morning routines, bring in a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, a towel, and a hairbrush. With these items you can use modeling activity with language collocations as “wash my teeth” or “use my hairbrush” and ask your students drilling them. From young learners nature we know that most of them are kinesthetic learners according to learning styles and so that they get to know everything by holding or by doing it. As a creative teacher if we let our learners to hold some authentic materials and show some actions by doing they will not lose their attention span during the lesson. But it should not be continued the whole lesson because young learners like to move from one activity to the next. Here we can share some ideas about implementing literacy activities for involving young learners. As we mentioned children learn by doing and need to be actively participating in literacy activities. Not only does this mean participating in the actual reading and writing activities themselves, but also engaging in discussions about texts, comprehension strategies, and the writing process. They should feel they can take risks and experiment. For example, they may not always make the right predictions when reading or invent spelling based on how they sound out a word, such as spelling “sed” instead of “said.” Teachers should give feedback to students in order to improve their literacy skills and strategies while valuing students’ ideas and encouraging them to keep taking risks.

As a tip for involving students’ attention span we can utilize different singing song or drilling poem activities. Children love saying chants in rhythm. They enjoy repeating phrases that rhyme. They enjoy moving to the rhythm, clapping their hands, tapping their feet, and dancing to the beat. Music and movement naturally connect to children’s hearts, minds, and bodies, that is why most teachers of young learners often use songs and movement with rhythm to engage children in the classroom or out of class time. The more we choose the songs or movement from the topics familiar to young learners the easier we can control their attention span. For example, in Uzbek culture we have national game “Oq terakmi ko’k terak bizdan sizga kim kerak?” for children. Sometimes when I feel that my students begin to have

short attention span I let them go out and we play this game in English. I found this activity useful and effective in developing my young learners’ speaking skills. It is because they learn the poem and repeating it again and again enhance their productive skills. In addition to this children are kinesthetic learners and like action games, so using these kinds of TPR activities we can gain a lot as a teacher. The steps of the game are followings:

Step 1: Put all of your students in a line and ask them to count. Then let the students with couple numbers as 2,4,6,8 and so on, take one step forward. The other students stay in their place. By doing this you can divide your class quickly into two groups.

Step 2: Now, let everybody call themselves with different names related to the topic which you have had in class. For instance if the topic was “Domestic animals” your students call themselves as a rabbit, a horse, a hen or a sheep.

Step 3: Put your students in two opposite sides with ten meters distance holding hands each other and the game begins. Students in the first group say the poem of the game in chorus by shaking their hands.

“White pine or Green pine Whom do you need?”

Students in another group choose one name of domestic animals after discussing and say also in chorus. “We need a horse”.

Step 4: A student in Group1 with the name of horse steps out of line and runs into the opposite direction as fast as possible. At this time all the members of Group 2 hold hands strongly as they can. If the running student can break the holding hand line in one place, he/ she catches as a prey one of the students who cannot defeat their line and give “the horse student” destroy it, and brings to his/her group. If “the horse student” cannot break the line of Group 2 he/she stays with them as a slave. The winner group continues asking the question with the poem again and the process of the game goes on. The game finishes until only two students left in one group and this group considers as a failed one.

### Conclusion

As a conclusion it is important to say that teaching young learners is very challenging and needs much responsibility for every EFL teacher. One of the significance of this is to involve students’ attention span for the lesson with using different activities. In order to be a successful teacher we should avoid having boring classes but we must always try to have our lessons with different engaging activities and using authentic materials.

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