My teaching beliefs

-My Unforgettable Teacher

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71th TESOL

When I was ten, I learnt English at school for the first time. I had never studied English before. At that time, most of the students might have not studied English. My first English teacher's name was JeongAhLee, she was also my homeroom teacher, too. She was pregnant at the time. Why I talk about her even 14years ago, she is my unforgettable teacher. So I can remember of her well. I wasn't exposed to English much. English was unfamiliar to me. At first, I thought it was very hard and difficult to study. Because I just knew the alphabet! I didn't know phonics, grammar and so on. But when I took first English class with her, I felt interested and excited in class. She taught in many ways to let us become more familiar with English. And it was successful.

We were just ten years old, so we should abide by the teacher's instruction. For example, we were going to learn about weather originally. But, the teacher taught me something no relation to today's lesson, such as direction and location. Even though, the teacher gave teaching about other subject in English class. (Because elementary school teacher can teach all subjects.) We follow her teaching without any questions. However, she made full use of the textbook and planed relevant task we were going to accomplish. We took midterm and final exams in all subjects except English. So, we didn't worry about our English grade and we weren't scolded for unconcern on class. We could don't pay attention to the teacher's explanation. Nevertheless, she always used appropriate teaching and techniques to help us learn about the subject matter. Besides, she provided activities relate today's lessons and goals we should achieve.

At that time, we sat in row with a mate. The students were laid out fixed seating. However, the English class was exception. She let us make groups and sit down. We made a group with 6~8 people. In every class, we changed seating and groups. It helped us interact with different people and discuss easily. Also, it allowed for a variety of moveable activities. For example, according to teacher's direction, we could stand up, turn around and so on. Furthermore, she prepared lots of games, chants and songs that we could learn fast. She explained the subject by using the computer and then we could see the screen. So it is easy to see and understand. She hardly wrote at blackboard and forced to write down. We only didn't hear the explanation. We could apply it in the classroom. The best I remember is English play. After we were given a script, we selected cast members freely. She didn't select cast members. We practiced, memorized it and play before the class. I thought she expected to improve not only English ability but also responsibility. She was a real Involving teacher.

She always showed respect to us. She used English as much as possible. We often didn't understand what she said exactly. Although I didn't understand it, I didn't say 'I don't understand, teacher' She could know my condition by looking my face. She didn't ignore me. She stopped speaking and explained slowly. Sometimes, she used gestures and spoke Korean to understand me. Whenever I was given that teaching, I wasn't embarrassed. Because she was very kind and friendly. Never had I felt humiliated or ashamed, other students might feel that way, too. I think it is a way of respect. She respected the students as not a little boy or girl, as individual human beings. We also deserved her attention and affection.

I want to be a teacher since I was young. I like English so I decided to become an English teacher. As I grow up, I met many teachers in different types. And I recognized their strengths and that I want to emulate. When I found their weaknesses, I was disappointed. Then I realized it is very difficult when I become a teacher. But I've never given up my dream. I had a year experience English teaching. It was hard to me at first. Before I taught, I believed that a teacher have to have a lot of knowledge and be always strict and severe to the students. In addition, I thought I have only to give explanation. During this period, there were many changes in my thoughts I had. There is something important more than knowledge. It is a relationship with the students. When the sincere relationship of the teachers and the students was performed, the class will work well naturally. I want to be teacher who values relationships above everything else. I'll actively respond to the students’ requests and build a good classroom atmosphere.