What is necessary to be a good teacher for children

Before 3 months ago, one item on my bucket list was becoming a teacher. The last 7 years, working as a banker, I was tired to dealing with money and shares at the stressful stock market because the reward of hardworking was a good salary and promotion which didn’t make me happy at all. As a Christian, I am influenced by other altruists and I feel great when I do something to make people happy; and I thought teaching is a very meaningful job because I can help people to lead how to achieve their goal efficiently and also I like meeting various people and sharing my experiences and knowledge together. I double majored English and Czech language in college so I thought maybe I could teach languages, however, I didn’t have any career related to teaching and there was no information I could get at that time. What I wanted to know was which qualification is necessary to be a teacher and how to be a good teacher and this is the reason I took the TESOL course and after the graduation of TESOL, amazingly I got a job to teach English about 10 years earlier than I thought. But still I only teach adult learners because I think to teach young learners I should understand children more. In this essay I want to share what I want to get from this TESOL-YL course.

 At first, I want to understand children and learn about their psychological status. To be a good teacher, I want to be children’s good friend not a dictator but if I don’t understand their signs and I respond to them in a wrong way, young students will misunderstand that I don’t respect or don’t like them and the class will be in a chaos. I love children and they are naturally beautiful and I hope they will know how lovely they are and how very precious they are. But I didn’t have lots of chance to get along with young learners and I don’t have any picture what is their interests and what they want to do. I want to understand more about what they want from a teacher and that’s the reason why I want to study about children’s characteristics.

Secondly, I want to learn many activities especially for children. Though we had many activities during the previous TESOL course, it is difficult to adopt the same activity to young learners. Adult students like discussion activities or share their experiences by pair working because they have all different backgrounds and life. Unlike them young people just started their social experience at the first time at the kindergarten or elementary school and their interests must be a lot different from adult learners. It means I need more idea to make children to concentrate on the activity. I may find activities on the internet or specialized books; however, I want to see and do the activity in reality and practice the activity with classmates and also get some better idea from the friends in this course.

Finally, I wish I can earn some tips about teaching materials. I am not familiar to the dolls or play toys and it’s difficult for me to think about what to use for making kids feel comfortable. Writing wall chart has to be different from what it is for adult learners and children might want eye catching drawings or some materials. If I have to teach young learners, I can deal with them for a few weeks but it seems like very stressful because I didn’t have any experiences making or using materials with children. Even though I am very good at playing with kids, the experience was so short and I want to learn which materials are useful and interesting and how to use or make things for the class.

Back in my childhood, it was very excited to go to ESL institute called ‘Ding Ding Dang’ and I still remember how I felt comfortable using English and which phrase I used with playing games. I want to give my future young students the same or better chance to using English freely. And the most important thing is as a teacher, I should learn the method and understand young kids and prepare useful materials to let the students use the English naturally. This course means a lot for me and I hope to learn many activities for children to be a good teacher for children.