TC 93th Final Essay Assignment

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Helper for the Better Future

 It was short but essential time for me during TESOL YL course in this month. Each class gave me a lesson about having a perspective about children. As an adult, as I wrote in my beginning essay, I could focus mostly on my point of view rather than children’s view. Before this course, I thought about current educational system in Korea mostly based on my experience, however, my thoughts come around to focus more on making my lesson as fun as possible after the course. And also I realize I don’t have to worry about other things besides my teaching. I will not worry about things that I cannot change, for example, current system, principal of an academy, salary, environment of a workplace, and parents of students. These are important issues in my career and have an effect on teaching. Even though I cannot ignore these facts, too much focusing on these matters consumes my time and energy. I will rather focus on things within my capacity. That is, I will change myself have more positive attitude, more smiling to children and make my class fun and energetic. Children are like a sponge so when I demonstrate first and show them what to do, they will do the same thing. And when I change myself, children change and I hope parents and academies change as well.

 I also got to learn lots of activities in class. I could use them in my future class, for example, if I want to teach beginning level of children and the topic is animals.

First, by the questioning learning cycle, children notice first. And it is important to make non-threatening, comfortable environment in the beginning of the lesson, so that children want to take a risk and involve the class. So if I choose to do task-based lesson, I will do storytelling with puppets for the Pre-task. The puppets are good for arresting children’s attention and they will listen better than just teacher talking.

In the task familiarization part, children have to want to learn the language to use in the main activity. Drawing and mime would help them understand and learn about the concept of animal. I demonstrate first and draw together or let them draw their favorite animal after I show them how to draw. I will adjust the level of drawing based on their ability. While I draw animals, I could explain, make a sound, or make a point of the characteristic about the animal for better understanding. After drawing, we can share what we draw and each child does mime and others guess right. We also can do hangman game with the animal’s name. They could both draw and learn the spelling of words at the same time. Animal race is a good game to do after drawing. We tear the paper following the line of the drawing, make two teams and flip the drawing with a book and do a race. It’s a good activity because children are not just sitting on the chair but physically moving so they aren’t getting bored. And hiding drawing animals in the classroom and find them is fun activity, also. They both feel challenged and play during the time.

For the task realization activities, children can describe and express about the animals we already learned. So for the upper level of children, we can do ‘on your head’ game, that is, hold a flash card above a head and make a question to others to figure out what the animal is on the card. Children get to know how to ask questions and think about the characteristics about the animals more deeply. And for the beginner, mixing the letter and making a word would be good for improving reading skill. First, write the letter of the different animal and tear the paper letter by letter. And mix the letters together and make words about the animal. Children feel successful when they match the right words.

For the wrap-up and linking to children’s existing knowledge, I will sing a song together, like ‘The animal sounds song’ or ‘Old MacDonald had a farm’. We will have fun during sing a song and children review the animals we learned.

Based on what I learned in this course, I will be a good explainer, involver, and enabler to children. Learning is a discovery process for both children and me even though it takes time and I need to wait in patient. My class will be enjoyable and memorable by making a good relationship and communicate each other and also doing many games that are learning-based but playing. I will always be active and my students take ownership so they are more active than me. And I will monitor them carefully, help them and give all children a chance. We will trust each other and everyone feel comfortable and successful. We will make a future together.