TESOL 101 Weekend

**The Importance of Establishing a Close Rapport in English Teaching**

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Being a good teacher is difficult. But it is more than worth the effort as the way of teaching can bring about enormous changes. I could realized the significance of an interdependent relationship between a teacher and a pupil when I lived in the U.S.

On my father’s sabbatical year, I stayed in Bowling Green, Ohio, in 1998. There, I have acquired my English. I started going elementary school just two weeks after I arrived. I was in the sixth grade at CRIM Elementary school. The moment I just arrived, my English level was 'Higher Beginner'. My reading and writing including vocabulary were quite limited and I was unable to respond to certain situations. Even though I only had some simple oral communication abilities, I must understand a wide range of subjects including history, biology and etc. And that took some doing. Mr. Ferguson, who was my home room teacher, helped me adapting to my new school life in the U.S.

Mr. Ferguson gave my class a pop up quiz every morning before the class begin. My class puzzled out a quiz about historic figures, cartoon characters or the name of foreign cities and so on. He lightened up the atmosphere of classroom to concentrate in his class. In an English Literature class a lively discussion was going on. We discussed the merits of reading Charles Dickens and the moral of the story, such as the good triumphing over the evil when we read ‘A Christmas Carol’. Mr. Ferguson fully accepted the opinions each student had and elicited new responses and opinions so that students can understand and comprehend the novel perfectly. And when there are words I don't know, he describe the terms to me by using body movements or gestures depending on the circumstances to convey the meaning specifically. He also used video teaching materials to explain footage of historical events like KKK reign of terror and allowed time to do the research on related concepts in history class. I could get a chance to acquire not only the lessons I taught but also the use of words in textbooks and furthermore, English as well.

Mr. Ferguson was an 'Enabler'. He was always aware of how individual students think and feel within his class. In many cases, he took him lead from the students and created the conditions that enabled us to learn for ourselves. I could understand what I was learning and was automatically be able to concentrate better and keep up with the work in class. He was also able to use appropriate teaching methods and organized procedures to help his students learn about the subject matter.

From my experience, I could realize what a teacher would be like. A teacher should actively respond to his/her students in planning lessons and should build effective working relationships and a good classroom atmosphere as teacher’s attitude is an active encouragement in learning. Along with the knowledge on courses, teacher should respect student’s opinion so that they can state their views. What is more important is that adult learners have life experience and knowledge. So a teacher should show respect. Motivating students to achieve obtainable goals is another crucial point as adults are self-directed. This may not be as easy to do as it may seem, but I will continue to make every effort to be an 'Enabler', just like Mr, Ferguson.