TC162 Last Essay Jenny

'My Future Adventure as a Teacher of Young English Learners'

My own ability to effectively teach English to young learners has dramatically changed since I started this California State University at Long Beach Office of Continuing and Professional Education Times Media TESOL Center TESOL for Children Class number 162.

I have been teaching children over 15 years and I solely thought that my teaching skills were strong enough to motivate children to learn and play. I was also confident in understanding and teaching children based on my experience. However, since I was exposed to this course, specifically, learning how to plan my lessons, I started thinking more about child-centered perspective. Making lesson plans helped me see what the aim of each lesson is. Now I try to find the focus of the lesson and be aware of the main objective of each lesson.

PPP Approach was another interesting aspect that I had to dwell on. I was well aware of the fact that that Presentation, Practice and Production were important factors for students while learning and playing. But I was not sure or did not know completely how to use these elements while I am in front of students. Besides, now I understand how important the teacher’s role is when I monitor students and give reinforcement and positive feedback to them.

A Game is an important tool to help students immerse themselves in learning. In fact, games were not regarded as important activities when I was teaching. However, through this program I have learned that there are many reasons why games play a central role in each lesson. I also realized that there are many good ways to learn English through games without the feeling of failure and students try to overcome their feeling of confusion when learning and having fun at the same time. Furthermore, it was sometimes hard for me to get children involved in the lesson. I try harder not only to find out what kinds of activities students are interested in but understand that each student is different in her/his own way.

Teaching writing was always one of the issues I have when I think about my classes because most students are not fond of writing and many of them like to speak out, sing and play games in class. This course made me think other ways to approach this problem. Those examples help me create new writing activities that encourage children and help them focus more on activities. Team writing was quite interesting for me to look into although I was not sure how this could help students improve writing through team writing activity in the beginning. After studying this approach, I believe that team writing activity could help students enhance writing without the feeling of confusion.

The most fun activity I like to do with my students is Drama. I knew that how fun it is for children and they learn a lot from this activity. Children are motivated and it gives the student opportunities to be more creative. It also helps children to express their feelings in their own words, which is a great way to remember words. Moreover, making props with students for drama is another fun part. This process helps students communicate with friends and develop skills in sequencing and organizing. At the end of this activity, students have a positive attitude of themselves and of their friends and they are more confident in exploring their ideas. Besides, this empowers students to be more natural in speaking out.

I have learned that the most significant factor when teaching is that teachers should encourage them to get involved in the activities freely whether it is a game, a song or a drama. The aim of each lesson should be clear for students and the teacher, so that students know what is going on in class. Teachers need to recognize and follow the basic classroom activities wisely and the students are encouraged to take part in the activity freely. To do this, I also realized that building a trusting relationship with students and providing them with positive learning environment are also important elements that teachers need to work on.