My Future Adventure as a Teacher of Young English Learners

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 As I am studying TESOL for Children, I realized that I really like to teach young learners and teaching makes me happy and is rewarding for me. I also noticed that being happy with myself as a teacher is very important in teaching young learners. Since young learners are easily affected by teachers and others, the role of their teachers is influential to them. As I look back at my childhood, my teachers had a great impact on me and they still remain in my memory. Some teachers were really impressive and they had one thing in common; they were all positive and understanding of who I was. I liked to talk to my teachers and they gave me a big smile and they showed their affection toward me. They might have led me to become a teacher. I think I am quite lucky to have met those nice and kind teachers and I want to be remembered as a warm-hearted teacher like them to my students.

As I have been teaching young learners, there was some time that I forgot how valuable teaching is. Teaching became only one aspect of my daily life and I put less importance in teaching than perhaps the aspects of my life. I was so accustomed to meeting children and teaching them. However, after I started studying TESOL for Children, I realized that I am so lucky to have my students and how happy I am with them. My students always make me laugh and give me energy. They inspire me to be a better teacher and try my best. I realized that I influence my students and vice versa so I should be happy and satisfied to make them enthusiastic and passionate. I will keep in mind that happy teachers make happy children and taking care of myself is necessary to keep my career as an effective and successful English teacher. I know I will focus on three things to have my future adventure as a teacher of young English learners be successful!

First, I will have a student-friendly approach when I teach young learners. Teaching shouldn’t be the lecture only especially for young learners. Teachers should guide the way and let the students figure it out. Students will make mistakes or fail on the way, but that’s the best way for the students to learn. I think it’s really important for the students to have curiosity or wonder about the things they are going to learn. If they are interested or they have questions, they would take an action to find out what’s going on. That’s the first step for learning. Curiosity makes them want to move and find the answer. Students should move forward whereas teachers watch them and encourage them from behind. Being patient and waiting for them until they are ready is not easy but these are the virtues that teachers should have. I want my students to be the main source and lead and I will support them when they need and open my mind to embrace the students. My students will be confident and full of energy when learning new things.

Second, I will set communication above everything else. The reason we are learning new languages is to communicate with each other. Reading texts to answer the questions and memorizing vocabulary will not be effective. Students should talk to one another and they should learn through themselves by choosing to communicate with each other. Sharing ideas and having an opportunity to express themselves would be very important in learning English. When we communicate, we listen and speak and also we read and write. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing would be developed by communicating with one another. While communicating, we listen to others and respond verbally and sometimes we write a letter or talk about the books we have read. Communication includes all the skills. Another important action I will take is I will help students learn English naturally. We never learned our first language by just memorizing words or solving problems. We learned it very naturally by communicating. Even before we learned how to write, we communicated but there was no problem at all. We just listened to what others said and followed them. Learning English is the same. When the teachers continuously talk to the students and make them speak as much as they can, they can learn English fast and naturally. I will encourage them to talk a lot and their voice would be heard everywhere. I believe communication is the key point of teaching English to young learners.

Third, I will try various types of teaching methods for young learners. What I really liked about this course was I was able to try many different types of teaching methods and all were beneficial and successful. I had to think in a various way when conveying the knowledge or messages. I made a monster, puppet, dance motions and arts and crafts. Using visual aids made my Micro Teaching effective and I really had fun preparing for them. The more I did my Micro Teaching, the more I became creative and full of ideas. I especially made a monster and a puppet for the first time and it was a really good experience. Not only me doing Micro Teaching but also watching how others doing and participating were really helpful. I learned a lot and was grateful for my colleagues to give me inspiration. I used my puppet once after the presentation to teach my student and it really worked well. I would like to make monsters or puppets in class with children and have them role play with me participating with them. Talking through the characters like puppets would be much more comfortable to young learners so I think I would expect that the effectiveness of learning will be enhanced. Puppets would beneficial to my students and especially children who are shy or hard to reveal their feelings. Also it is definitely true that every child loves to dance to the music so I would like to sing and dance with them to make them move and learn new things by motions. The younger they are, the more they need to be motivated by many different approaches.

I really enjoyed my TESOL for Children course and it was a great experience and motivation for me to be a better teacher. From the knowledge for the development of young learners to the practical methods that were helpful and valuable, it enlarged my views of being a teacher and I am confident that I can be a good teacher who will have a great impact and influence on young learners. I know I have a bright future waiting for me and shining on me. My students will be positive and cheerful just like me! It was a great journey and I really appreciate my instructor and colleagues for helping me become a better teacher. I will believe in myself, be happy with myself and keep navigating my successful career as an English teacher!