"Boosting UP Young Learner Motivation: Through Movement and Meaning"

by Jake Whiddon

Activity Ideas for *using TPR*

TPR Storytelling Session

Procedure

1. Choose 5-8 key words from your target language and assign actions
2. Prepare a short story including the target language for the class (about 20-30 words)
3. Have the students just watch the 5-8 actions, no words are needed here
4. Now include the actions in the story - students just watch, listen & imitate the actions
5. Repeat the story a 3-5 times encouraging students to imitate the actions and say the key words
6. Students can say as many of the other words as they feel comfortable with
7. Do a concept check of the key words by changing the order
8. Students can now the actions in pairs or small groups to keep practicing.

Materials Needed

No materials needed ☺

Rationale

Learning a language is about learning to convey meaning. This simple process of using a story helps to add context and meaning to basic vocabulary. Students are not forced to simply repeat key vocabulary and are allowed time to associate meaning to the actions and new words before having to produce the language. A story also allows for students to acquire extra language at the level that best suits them. Some may pick up the whole story, some may only pick up the target vocabulary. Finally, hearing the target language in sentences or utterances helps students to be aware of which words collocate with the target vocabulary.

The Amazing Race

Procedure

1. Group your class into teams of 3-4
2. Tell them they have to race the other teams to complete your tasks
3. Ask your students to *'bring me' a (pink) object or 'shout out' your favorite animal*
4. You can use any target language here eg. *dance like a chicken, sing happy birthday, pick up...., open the .....*
5. Students only have to listen and do at first
6. Now each team can come up with a set of commands for the class using the language you modelled at first.

Materials Needed

No materials needed, or anything you have in the classroom or school.

Rationale

In this simple activity the students are going the natural stages of language acquisition of hearing and seeing the language before producing. They are allowed time to attach meaning to the commands without having to speak at first. This step develops noticing skills and boosts confidence to use the language later. By working in collaborative teams, students will learn from peers and support each other in the process.

BEBOP is a three level English course designed specifically for children aged 3-6 years. Bebop takes a playful, multi-sensory approach to whole-child learning and motivation. Full of energy and music, the Bebop Band characters in the Storysong and the Action Song lessons help to bring the new language to life.

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