



## METHODS OF TEACHING SPEAKING FOR YOUNG LEARNERS

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### **Abstract:**

Plan specific vocabulary and phrases, to be used each week, by the entire teaching team. Post the new words and phrases around the classroom as memory recall for adults. Encourage students to speak out as they play. Engage students into talks about the here and now, and pose open questions during activities.

**Keywords:** teaching team, specific vocabulary, memory recall, teaching methods, young learning.

To develop speaking skills students definitely need intensive practice. As an ESL teacher, I absolutely think that the students achieve the speaking skill by interacting on topics of real-life situations. The answer is definitely the engagement of activities that promote speaking in the classroom. After all, the final aim of learning a second language is for students to be able to communicate in the target language in a variety of contexts and express themselves without being strained.

To teach speaking is to teach students to organize their thoughts. How? In a meaningful and logical sequence instead of leading them to pure memorization of patterns. Discussion activities ask for setting a purpose. Teachers usually do this, so that students don't just waste time chatting about irrelevant things. Discussions evolve around actual real-life topics such as environment, technology, health issues, lifestyles, cultures, etc. Through discussion activities students aim to conclude, share opinions, give solutions, or agree or disagree on a certain issue. In pairs or groups of three or four students organize discussions. They boost students' critical thinking and make them ask questions, clarify and support ideas and respect others' opinions.

### **Debates**

Debates are persuasive speaking activities. Here students keep an attitude, give opinions, and justify them giving arguments to support ideas. Students debate in a polite way on challenging topics. These topics are prompted by the teacher or found in the coursebook. The topic of a debate should be related to students' preferences and





level of language knowledge. Blending theatre with debate and role-play makes the activity both fun and rewarding.

#### Picture describing

Another way to make students speak is by showing them one or two pictures. Then, ask them to describe what is in them. Students discuss the picture in detail: the people, the setting, the weather, feelings, etc. It can be conducted in pairs or individually. This activity fosters the creativity and imagination of the learners. It also develops their public speaking skills.

#### Interviews.

Students can conduct interviews on selected topics with various people. It is a good idea to prepare interviews on real-life topics. This way, students feel free to ask and answer questions. Students take roles and then swap them to have a diverse share of opinions. Conducting interviews with each other allows students to practice their speaking ability not only in class. It also helps them become more socialized outside the classroom. These activities make students more active in the learning process. At the same time, it makes their learning of the English language more meaningful and entertaining for them.

Reading and speaking skills are both important when it comes to language learning. To be able to speak fluently, reading is very important. When children are exposed to a language-rich environment at home and at school, it creates an opportunity for them, to develop their productive skills. It is said that “receptive skills are stronger than the productive skills” when it comes to vocabulary learning. So, when they are exposed to more new words their degree of fluency intensifies. This can be usually done at school through activities, play-time, discussions, rhymes, pretend play, group discussions, etc. Similarly, at home parents can help their child to speak by playing games and involving them in everyday situations like dress up, shopping, sorting laundry, etc. Initially, even before learning the words and its meaning properly, the children learn in phrases, in the form of sentences. This is usually obtained from what they hear from their surroundings.

A few engaging activities to enrich speaking abilities are activity areas, storytelling, reading, group work activities, nursery rhymes, pretend play, teaching vocabulary through some games, etc. some of which are briefly explained below.

According to a recent scientific consensus, it is said that shared reading amplifies interest in reading. Especially, if a kid is accompanied by an adult with pictured books, they get more excited, generate more interest, and hence pay close attention. This will influence and inculcate reading habits in them and make them better readers in the long term. Additionally, we can ask the children to predict the story by seeing the





pictures in the book. This will further inspire them to be more curious about the story. We can then read the story aloud with expressions and ask them questions relative to the story. Asking questions will enhance the opportunity to speak and will kindle their responsiveness. While writing out verb conjugation tables twenty times over is an effective strategy for adults to learn, you'll be hard-pressed to get first graders to sit still long enough to do the same. Likewise, encouraging your business English class made of professionals and university students to sit in a circle and clap along to a song about colors would raise a whole lot of eyebrows. Good luck getting a 50-year-old businessman to play Simon Says willingly!

It can sometimes be difficult getting your young learners to stay focused for an entire class. However, you can use that energy and curiosity to your full advantage. Here's how to teach English to children using engaging games and activities!

Every English learner, both native and not, is familiar with, at the very least, one classic jingle. Yes, the ABCs are what we turn to for a reminder of what letter comes after Q. Although the middle part (something about eliemenopee?) requires a bit more brain power, the song offers English speakers a comfortable reference point for all their alphabetical needs. Head, shoulders, knees, and toes. These are a whole lot easier to point out on a smiling stick man than to write out in a vocabulary list. Visual devices provide a double whammy, too. Students can enjoy coloring or even adding on to pictures, while also absorbing what the new words they are learning look like. What did you do this weekend? By kicking off class with an expected question, you can get your students thinking about what they'll say long before class even starts. Natural dialogue also introduces students to everyday vocabulary relevant to their own lives and interests. Assuming the average class duration is only an hour or less, that leaves a whole lot of time in the day to forget everything a student just learned. Children won't retain as much information as adults, so repetition is key in English for young learners.

Rather than calling case closed at the end of a lesson and moving on after a test, be sure to pack every class with tons of repetition from lessons before. This also helps students to use vocabulary and grammar points all together, rather than depend on the same example sentences and templates they learn isolated in each lesson.

If you're working with a class, rather than a single student, you can also sprinkle in some side conversations with students as they work diligently on differentiating between I and me. Ask what's for lunch, how the last soccer game went, or anything at all that gets them excited to share. Highlighting, underlining, and circling are all common visual tricks adults use to recall snippets of information. Creating visual diagrams is the same basic idea, so that the little ones can start to visualize what





English looks like. As a bonus, students can more easily locate learning aids with distinct colors and illustrations among their folders of messy papers.

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