Specialisation Course

International TEFL Training Institute South Africa

Teaching Young Learners

Course Description

Vision & Purpose

The course is designed for practicing teachers or for teachers in preparation who may or may not have formal training in second and foreign language teaching methodology. It provides an overall introduction to key aspects of language teaching methodology in an accessible yet not trivial way.

The purpose of this course is to explore issues as they relate directly to the teaching of English to young learners.

Features

- A clear orientation and introduction of 50 hours to the teaching of English to young learners, including a brief overview of young learner development. Information is provided for teachers working in both Foreign Language and Second Language contexts.

- Reflection questions inviting readers to think about critical issues in young learner language teaching and action activities requiring readers to apply the ideas, principles, and techniques to the teaching of young learners in their own situations.

- A detailed treatment of teaching English to learners who may or may not possess literacy skills in their native language.

- Numerous practical illustrations from a wide range of course books and extracts from authentic classroom interactions.

- Information on how to effectively work with the parents of young learners even when the parents do not speak English.

- A key issues chapter which provides suggestions for dealing with classroom management, special educational needs, technology, tutoring, and professional organizations.

- Charts and checklists of useful information for the young learner teacher.

- Reproducible material for direct application of content to in-class lessons.

- Suggestions for books, articles, and websites offering resources for additional up to-date information.

- An expansive glossary offering short and straightforward definitions of language, early childhood, and education teaching terms.

Course Content

Module 1: The Child as a Language Learner

- Developmentally appropriate instruction
- Examples of cognitive, emotional, physical, and moral development in children
- Ways to learn about children's development and interests
- Language acquisition and language learning as it relates to children
- Techniques for finding out the needs and interests of young learners

Module 2: Teaching Listening to Young Learners

- Listening as it relates to children
- Different learning channels
- Examples of the types of listening skills that young learners need to have
- Total Physical Response (TPR) and how it helps students with different learning channels develop listening skills
- Listening activities for children learning English as a foreign or second language

TEST: MODULES 1 & 2

Module 3: Teaching Speaking to Young Learners

- Speaking as it relates to children
- Expectations for children's oral language use and development
- Advantages and disadvantages of Communicative Language Teaching for young learners
- The role of pronunciation in a young learner's speaking program
- Ways to correct young learners' errors
- Challenges of using speaking activities with young learners

Module 4: Teaching Reading to Young Learners

- The purposes and aims of reading
- The difference between reading and decoding
- Effective and ineffective phonics instruction
- Advantages and disadvantages of using different approaches to reading
- Familiarity with all of the techniques discussed in a chapter

TEST: MODULES 3 & 4

Module 5: Teaching Writing to Young Learners

- Definition of writing
- Issues that impact young learners learning to write
- Product and process as they relate to writing
- Steps of the writing process
- Techniques and activities for different steps of the writing process

Module 6: Teaching Vocabulary to Young Learners

- Definition of vocabulary
- Reasons of paying more attention to vocabulary than in the past
- Some of the basic principles of vocabulary development
- Vocabulary questions that help learners use higher order thinking skills
- Activities which can be used to promote vocabulary development

TEST: MODULES 5 & 6

Module 7: Assessing Young Learners

- Assessment and situations where it occurs
- Issues you should take into account when assessing young learners
- Context and situation where the assessment is taking place
- Ways to assess listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the classroom
- Assessment tools based on classroom activities

Module 8: Working with Parents of Young Learners

- Specific reasons for having a positive relationship with parents of young learners
- Positive ways that parents can be connected with the school
- Strategies for learning about and from the parents of young learners
- Issues a teacher faces when working with young learners' parents
- Strategies for communicating and working with parents

TEST: MODULES 7 & 8

Module 9: Key Issues in Teaching Young Learners

- Effective classroom management strategies
- Special needs that young learners may have
- Why it is important to know if learners have special needs
- Strategies to use when tutoring young learners on a one-to-one basis
- Advantages and disadvantages of using the Internet with children
- Professional organizations for teachers of young learners

TEST: MODULE 9

Final Test/ Assignment & Certificate Award

Assessment Criteria

Module Tests consist of 20 multiple-choice questions of which at least 70% needs to be answered correctly to be able to progress to the next two modules.

The Final Test consists of 40 multiple-choice questions of which 70% have to be answered correctly to achieve a passing score. The test covers the entire course and focuses on essential information required to teach young learners successfully.

The Assignment required is a lesson plan written for an instruction of 40 minutes showing that the teacher can put the knowledge (acquired from completing the course work) into practical application.

Assessment Tool	Overall Value
Module Tests	25%
Final Tests	50%
Lesson Plan Assignment	25%

Grade	Value	Comment
A	100-95%	Excellent
B+	94-90%	Very Good
B	89-83%	Good
C+	82-78%	Above Ave.
C	77-70%	Average
F	0	Fail