

## EFFECTIVE METHODS TO TEACH FOREIGN LANGUAGES FOR LEARNERS

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**Annotation:** *The main purpose of the article is to try to provide the best methods of teaching foreign languages for learners*

**Key words:** *approach, methodologies, techniques, foreign language, target languages.*

The communicative approach is the most widely used and most widely accepted approach to classroom-based foreign language teaching today, and in many ways, is a culmination of those approaches and methodologies that appeared before. Despite the fact that nowadays, we have a number of techniques for learning foreign languages, as well as different foreign language teaching methods, all of them have one thing in common. Namely, if you ask how to master a second/foreign language, the answer in each of these approaches will be similar – by using it regularly. So, the key to successful learning of any foreign language is exposure and usage.

When it comes to foreign language education in primary school, it means that classes on their own are not enough, i.e. if the child no longer has any contact with the language after school, anything they have learned will soon start to disappear. This applies to all school subjects, and particularly to foreign languages. So, you need to encourage your child to use the words they learn as often as possible outside the classroom, because the best way to learn any language is to use it. Of course, the role of parents can be crucial here. First, the key thing is to motivate the child, not force them. When they are young, children acquire knowledge best in stress-free and pressure-free environments – through play. Therefore, it is necessary to create a stimulating and supportive environment for learning a foreign language.<sup>7</sup> Need-to-know Tips for Teaching Foreign Language to Young Learners So how does a language teacher specifically gear their class toward young learners? As we've just seen, it's not only about what they stick on the walls but also what they do. Here are seven tips to help you engage young learners and set up a classroom that's made just for them.





1. Prepare Extra Activities to Hold Their Attention My five-year-old son's favorite board game takes all of five minutes to play. I might feel fleeced if it weren't for how much he absolutely loves it. But love it he does, and the playing length is just right for him because kids lose interest quickly. So what's a language teacher to do? Keep things moving. I've learned the hard way to always have fillers and backup activities ready to go at a moment's notice. My lessons often took much less time than I'd planned for them. But when you teach young learners, you have to plan to move quickly from one activity to the next. It's not crazy to have a different activity ready for every five minutes you'll be in class with your students. But don't be intimidated. Kids love repetition, so it's perfectly fine to repeat activities each day of the week or even in the morning and then again before going home. Here are some easy ideas to incorporate into your daily lesson planning:

1. Include target language songs and chants throughout your day. These are great for quick warmups, cool downs and breaks in between larger activities.

2. Tell or read target language stories that engage their imaginations.

3. Play games in the target language. This is a tried-and-true technique to get kids! building their language skills while having fun!

4. Go outside and teach movement vocabulary or nature vocabulary. Sometimes a change of scene and fresh air is all kids need to stay on track

You won't end up using every activity you've planned on any given day, but if you have them then you'll be sure to keep your kids engaged and you won't find them staring out the window lost in daydreams.

2. Total Physical Response Is Your Friend Kids have energy! Anyone who's ever raised one, been on an airplane with one or had one in the classroom knows how true this is. Of course, each individual child is unique and has their own balance of activity and energy, but if you're teaching young learners you can generally expect your students to outlast you every day of the week. So working with this characteristic rather than against it is key in your language classroom. Teaching Foreign Language to Young Learners? 7 Tips for Lessons They'll Love A box of stuffed animals lies in a corner. Crayon and marker drawings paper the walls. A beach ball lies to the side of the teacher's desk ready for the morning hello ritual. Where are you? In a classroom of young language learners, of course! And while some might say the room looks more like a toy box than a classroom, each of these objects is there for a reason. Teaching foreign language to young learners looks much different from teaching it to adults. Here we'll look at seven ways to take advantage of your young learners' unique qualities instead of fighting against them as you teach your foreign language class. What Does a Young Language





**Learner Classroom Look Like?** A young learner classroom isn't all about bright colors on the walls and small chairs at little desks, though you'll see that. The best classrooms for young language learners are different because of what the students and teacher do, not just how the space is decorated. In an effective classroom for young learners, you'll see a lot of movement, hear a lot of repetition and see lessons that look a lot like play. Kids are moving, engaging their senses and perhaps making more mistakes than their adult counterparts would. As with the classroom we described above, you can count on props, crafts and games not simply to create a fun, friendly environment, but also to get kids interacting with the target language. You can take a peek into this classroom to see one that's working the way it should. The teacher is using repetition in an effective way, engaging the students' whole bodies and using a song to reinforce what he's teaching. The kids are engaged, the teacher is meeting them at their level and everyone is having fun.


**7 Need-to-know Tips for Teaching Foreign Language to Young Learners** So how does a language teacher specifically gear their class toward young learners? As we've just seen, it's not only about what they stick on the walls but also what they do. Here are seven tips to help you engage young learners and set up a classroom that's made just for them.

**1. Prepare Extra Activities to Hold Their Attention** My five-year-old son's favorite board game takes all of five minutes to play. I might feel fleeced if it weren't for how much he absolutely loves it. But love it he does, and the playing length is just right for him because kids lose interest quickly. Since the average child's attention span is two to three minutes for every year of age, you probably won't get a five-year-old to work at a project for 20 minutes. While you may be perfectly content to review past, present and future tenses all at the same time, that doesn't mean your young learners can sit through a lesson long enough to cover it all. So what's a language teacher to do? Keep things moving. I've learned the hard way to always have fillers and backup activities ready to go at a moment's notice. My lessons often took much less time than I'd planned for them. But when you teach young learners, you have to plan to move quickly from one activity to the next. It's not crazy to have a different activity ready for every five minutes you'll be in class with your students. But don't be intimidated. Kids love repetition, so it's perfectly fine to repeat activities each day of the week or even in the morning and then again before going home.

#### Create Learning Stations for Student Exploration

Kids are natural investigators. They want to pick up every rock, look in every box and talk to anyone you happen to be on the phone with. They like to explore





their worlds. You can use this to your advantage by creating a classroom worth exploring. And when you're strategic about what kids will be exploring, you'll also be making a way for your students to learn independently from you. One of my favorite ways of making an interactive classroom is by creating learning stations for my students to use independently. You can create a learning station to teach just about anything you like with a little thought and creativity. Some of my favorites, which don't take a ton of setup work, are creating a reading nook and classroom library, tossing all my extra worksheets into a basket and letting kids do them at their leisure, setting up a computer with tabs for language games and videos that kids can play or having language games kids can play together.

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