

THE WAYS OF WORKING WITH GIFTED AND TALENTED
STUDENTS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING

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Annotation: *This article is devoted to show the importance of teaching foreign languages to ESL students. This article discusses some strategies of teaching foreign language to gifted and talented students.*

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Teaching foreign language to ESL students can be a rewarding experience, but it can also present unique challenges. Mostly, students are divided into two groups. They include passive and active students. If teacher apply the same teaching ways, of course, students can be bored and do not want studying. Here are a few tips to effectively teach a foreign language to ESL students:

1. Create an immersive environment: Use the target language as much as possible during class and encourage students to do the same. Incorporate various learning activities such as role-playing, group discussions, and language games to make the learning experience interactive and engaging.

2. Focus on communication: Emphasize speaking and listening skills to help students become effective communicators in the foreign language. Encourage daily practice and provide opportunities for students to engage in meaningful conversations in the target language.

3. Incorporate cultural elements: Help students understand the cultural context of the language they are learning. Integrate cultural elements such as traditions, customs, and celebrations into lessons to enhance their overall language learning experience.

4. Use visual aids and real-life materials: Utilize visual aids, authentic materials like newspapers, videos, and audio recordings to expose students to authentic language usage and facilitate better comprehension. These resources can also serve as conversation starters and provide opportunities for language practice.



5. Tailor instruction to individual needs: Recognize and accommodate individual learning styles, needs, and abilities. Provide differentiated instruction and use various teaching strategies to accommodate the diverse needs of ESL students.

6. Provide meaningful feedback: Give specific and constructive feedback to students to help them improve their language skills. Encourage self-assessment and reflection to foster autonomy in their language learning journey.

7. Encourage language practice outside the classroom: Encourage students to practice the foreign language outside the classroom by providing additional resources such as recommended books, online platforms, and language exchange opportunities.

8. Build a supportive classroom community: Foster a positive and inclusive classroom environment where students feel safe to take risks and make mistakes. Encourage peer collaboration, group work, and regular interactions to create an atmosphere of mutual support and learning.

Teaching a foreign language to ESL students requires patience, flexibility, and adaptability. Celebrate small victories, provide ongoing support, and promote a love for language and cultural exploration.

There are myths related to gifted and talented students (“Myths, Arguments and Red Herrings”; Coil, 2012). One myth is if a gifted child is superior in one area, s/he should also be as successful in most or even all other areas of learning. Another is gifted children can succeed by themselves without a teacher’s, manager’s or counselor’s support. These attitudes/beliefs do not reflect the truth (Clickenbeard, 1991). Like all children, gifted and talented ones have strengths as well as weaknesses (George, 1995). Even if the students are gifted and talented in different fields, they need differentiated learning and supportive teaching strategies to bring out the potential in their skills, talents, and abilities.

Teaching foreign language to gifted and talented students requires a specialized approach that recognizes their unique abilities and challenges. Here are some strategies and considerations for effectively educating these students:

1. Differentiated Instruction: Adjust the curriculum and learning activities based on each student's needs and abilities. Gifted students often grasp concepts quickly, so provide advanced or accelerated content to keep them engaged. Tailor assignments to their interests and provide opportunities for independent research or projects.

2. Authentic Materials: Utilize authentic materials such as literature, songs, movies, or news articles from the target language culture. These



materials will challenge gifted students by exposing them to more complex vocabulary, cultural nuances, and real-life language usage.

3. **Critical Thinking and Problem Solving:** Encourage gifted students to analyze, compare, and evaluate the language and culture they are studying. Challenge them with higher-level thinking tasks such as debating, creative writing, or discussing cultural dilemmas in the target language.

4. **Collaborative Learning:** Create a supportive environment where gifted students can collaborate with peers who are equally motivated and intellectually curious. Encourage group projects, debates, or role-playing activities that foster critical thinking and collaborative skills.

5. **Individualized Goals and Projects:** Allow gifted students to set their own language learning goals and tailor their projects accordingly. Offer choices for assignments or projects that accommodate their interests and passions, which will increase their motivation and engagement.

6. **Technology Integration:** Utilize technology tools and platforms to enhance language learning for gifted students. Interactive language learning apps, online language communities, or virtual exchange programs can provide authentic language exposure and opportunities for communication with native speakers.

7. **Flexible Assessment:** Use a range of assessment methods that align with the students' abilities and learning styles. Allow for creativity in projects, consider performance-based assessments such as oral presentations or debates, and provide opportunities for self-reflection and self-assessment.

8. **Enrichment Activities:** Offer additional opportunities for enrichment, such as language clubs, cultural events, study abroad programs, or participation in language competitions. These activities will cater to gifted students' need for intellectual stimulation and help them explore their language skills beyond the classroom.

Every student's needs may vary, so it is essential to remain flexible and adaptable in your teaching strategies. By providing intellectually stimulating and challenging learning experiences, you can help gifted and talented students achieve their full potential in foreign language acquisition.



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