

Hello! Welcome to the Dream English Teaching ideas e-book!

What is this e-book for?

I put together this e-book to share ideas I have learned teaching English to children with songs. This e-book has many ideas that I hope will help you teaching your classes. There are many more ideas, over 20 free Children's song downloads, flashcards, coloring, worksheets and more at http://www.dreamenglish.com/

How do I use this e-book?

You can read the whole e-book through, or simply open it up before a class for an idea. All of the entries are short and to the point, to give you a quick reference. Many of the ideas are taken from my blog:

http://www.dreamenglish.com/blog

or from my website:

http://www.dreamenglish.com

Can I share this e-book with others:

Yes, please! Feel free to email this book to all of your friends and fellow teachers. This book is free for everyone! And available at http://www.dreamenglish.com/ebook

What if I have questions:

Please feel free to send me an email <u>matt@dreamenglish.com</u>

Happy Singing! Matt

Dream English

Chapter 1: Teaching English to young Children

Teaching English to young children is both fun and challenging. I feel like I am learning new things every day, and try to apply these to make myself a better teacher.

Everybody has their own teaching style, and we all continue to develop this each time we teach. This e-book will not go into teaching methodology, but before we begin, I want to make a few points:

Safety:

When teaching children, safety is very important. Before trying any of the games in this book, or even songs and dances, please make sure the classroom is safe, and cleared of any dangerous articles.

Patience:

This goes without saying, but when teaching young children patience is very important. Children learn best when comfortable, and not being pushed too hard. If you are teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) please be careful not too expect too much too soon. Students learn and begin to speak at different paces. As teachers, it is our jobs to nurture this.

These are just a few points to keep in mind, if you have anything to add to this please let me know, send me an email at <a href="mailto:matted-mailto:matte

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http://www.dreamenglish.com/ebook

The Importance of Songs in the Children's ESL Classroom

I'm currently teaching English in Japan. Every time I visit a school to teach, I always hear music. Kids are singing, dancing and playing to music. Of course, being in Japan the songs are in Japanese. So how does this translate to the ESL classroom? First of all using music creates a comfortable environment. Something the students are used to, in what at first can be a very unfamiliar environment. If you are using the right songs, it can really set the mood and enhance the good feelings of a class.

Learning Language through Songs

I feel it is really important to pre-teach language used in songs. However, I have been in situations where this isn't always possible. What always amazes me is through repetition, the kids start singing the songs in English. Why is this? Well of course because of the repetition, for one. Also, if you will allow me to theorize for a moment, from a very young age children are learning songs that they might not yet understand the words for in their native language. So the learning of songs, and lyrics, is a learned habit. I know my daughter was singing songs before she could talk.

And Finally....

It's fun! Maybe this should have come first. I really enjoy singing and dancing with my students, and by their smiling faces, and great singing in English, they do too!

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Teaching Children an English Song using the 1,2,3, Go! Method

Let's talk about teaching children a new song using the 1,2,3,Go! Method. The 1,2,3 Go! Method is a simple three step process to teach children songs, but can also be applied to games, etc. It basically breaks down to this:

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Practice
- 3. Application

If possible, it is great to have the students listen to the song a few times before practicing. This way it gets into their heads a bit. You can do this by playing it a few times before class starts, or after a class ends. All of my students have the Dream English Kids Songs CD that I use in my classes. This is really great because they listen to the music at home, and are already familiar with it when they come into class.

Let's talk about teaching the Dream English "Let's Count" song. So here we 1,2,3 Go!

- 1. Preteach the vocabulary- In this case the lyrics are mainly numbers and some actions. You can review the numbers before you start with the song. Then teach the simple actions, and have the students do them with you. In this case: 1,2,3 step forward; 1,2,3 step back; 1,2,3 spin around.
- 2. Next add actions and practice singing the song with the actions. I use a simple clapping left to right in a big semi circle (1,2,3,4,5) and then right to left (6,7,8,9,10), then of course jump!
- 3. Go! Now sing the song with the students and music.

You can apply this same method with any other song. The Let's Count song is available on Dream English Kids Songs Volume 1, and as a free download here:

http://www.dreamenglish.com/freedownload

So give it a try, and let me know how it goes!

For free children song downloads and more please visit www.dreamenglish.com

Sample English Lesson Plan 2-4 Year olds

I thought it might be nice to write out some simple lesson plans for young students. These are just some ideas and I recommend adjusting them to your students particular needs.

30 Minute English Lesson for Beginner 2-4 year olds.

- 1. Warm up- get the students comfortable by doing simple actions with them. Say and do the following, don't worry if your students don't follow you right away: clap your hands, jump, spin around, sit down, stand up. Also, I usually start out the lesson saying Hello and waving my arms.
- 2. Numbers- Practice counting objects from 1-10, or using flash cards. If the students are comfortable with numbers, play a simple touch game. Call out the number and ask the students to touch.
- 3. Song- Let's Count 1 to 10, a free Dream English download.

http://www.dreamenglish.com/freedownload

- 4. Alphabet-Using flash cards introduce the alphabet from A to Z. You may want to introduce phonics at this point, or just the alphabet letters. Next, have the students stand up and make the shapes of ABC with their body.
- 5. Song-ABC Song, another free Dream English download.

http://www.dreamenglish.com/freedownload

- 6. Colors- introduce the colors using flashcards, objects, or items around the room. Try to have the students repeat after you.
- 7. Song-Color Song, yes another Dream English free download

http://www.dreamenglish.com/freedownload

- 8. Coloring- this is optional, but you can use crayons to have the students repeat the names of the colors again. Then have them color something simple. MES English has many free coloring sheets.
- 9. Read a book- Any book for kids is great. I recommend asking the students questions when reading. "What do you see on the page? flowers, that's right.

What color are they? how many?"

10. Goodbye Song- I use the Dream English Goodbye song, though you can use anything you like. I just make sure to say thank you to the kids when we are finished, and ask them to repeat.

Ok, these are some suggestions and ideas. One other point is that it is important not to force the beginners to speak right away. Once they become comfortable they will begin speaking. The time this takes varies from student to student. Be creative, and have fun, I hope this helps!

Stand up, spin around, sit down!

Today I was practicing numbers with some of my students, 1-100. They are pretty good at this, but it is always good pronunciation practice, etc. They seemed to be getting a bit bored though, so in between every ten or so numbers I said, "Stand up, spin around, sit down!" Then we continued.

This idea is really simple, and can be applied to drilling any material. It's just something a bit different and fun for the kids. This little addition made the students really interested in the practice.

Easy Ball Toss Game with Flashcards

Sometimes it can be hard to keep get young learners to sit still. They have a lot of energy! I use a really simple game to teach vocabulary: The Ball Toss Game.

All you need is a small basket, a ball, and some flashcards. Ask the students to sit down and put the basket a few feet in front of them. You can adjust the distance depending on their age. Simply show the flashcard to the students, and ask them to repeat after you. Once they say the word correctly, they win the opportunity to try and get a point by tossing the ball in the basket. Simple, but effective.

For older children: age 7-12

You can use the same game with older students, but instead of drilling vocabulary ask them basic questions. For example, ask them what color they like, where they live, etc. If they get the answer correctly, they can try to get the ball in the basket. Good luck!

Free Resources: In this section I will talk about some other resources that I find valuable as a Teacher. I believe that now you can find everything you need online to create a wonderful course for teaching children English and for free! I personally use the following sites, and www.dreamenglish.com to create a curriculum for the over 100 students I teach English to each week. Though textbooks can be excellent resources for teaching English, you can often create a curriculum better suited to your needs using these online materials. A new addition to the Dream English site is the "Teacher's Guide" to getting started teaching English to kids. You can check that out here:

http://www.dreamenglish.com/basickidsenglish

Free ABC Songs.com http://www.freeabcsongs.com

Besides Dream English I have a few other websites, one of which is Free ABC Songs.com. On this site I currently have 14 Traditional Kids Songs you can download for free! These include Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star, The Wheels on The Bus, Eency Weency Spider and more. There are downloadable and printable pdf's of all the lyrics, and some of the songs have sheet music.

I really like teaching these Traditional songs, because they are really part of the culture I grew up with in America. I think it is important to not only teach English, but something about the culture in English speaking countries, not just America, of course.

MES English and Tools for Educators

MES English (www.mes-english.com) is the website I refer to the most for free flashcards and worksheets. Mark, the creator of MES, has made a fantastic new free site called Tools for Educators (www.toolsforeducators.com). This site is way cool. You can actually make your own worksheets, dice games, bingo cards and more. I mean, for a guy like me who is completely lost when it comes to graphics this site is a real find.

123 Listening http://www.123listening.com

123 Listening is a website with free audio listening tests. You can find free downloadable listening exercises audio, worksheets to go along, and a worksheet generator if you don't find the exact worksheet you want. This site is great for native and non-native English teachers. You can mix and match the audio and the worksheets for the perfect listening exercise for your students. I also have chants on the Dream English website to match all of the vocabulary from the listening exercises.

ESL Teacher Talk

ESL Teacher Talk is a podcast hosted by Mark of MES English. They have recorded a few seasons now, and each episode is chalk full of great information for teaching kids and adults. I recently listened to an episode on TPR: Total Physical Response. It was excellent, and I found many great ideas that I used immediately in my classes. You can check out ESL Teacher Talk at www.eslteachertalk.com In season 3 coming up in early 2009 I will be cohosting some of the episodes. The first episode of the season will be on Dream English, so please check it out!

So grab an episode, have a listen and get some great ideas for your classes!

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Easy Flashcard Game

One game I use a lot is the Duck Game. This is really easy, and if you have fun with it, the kids love it. What I do is ask the kids to stand up, and start walking in place in a slow rhythm. Next, you take a set of flash cards and have one card that is the duck card. For example, if you are teaching animals you could have the Lion be the duck card. Tell the children that when they see that card to sit down, before the teacher can get them. With any game, be sure to make sure you have a safe area to play so the kids won't hurt themselves when sitting down. Next, take the danger card and tell the kids to say "bye, bye", and hide it among the other cards. Now have the kids walk in place, and repeat the names of the flash cards after you. When you get to the duck card, they should all sit down. Make it fun by building up anticipation in the kids. Say things like, "Oh no, is the next one the Lion?", and then really quickly pull out another card that is not the Lion. Simple things like that.

Variations

When I played this game with my students during Christmas time, we were using the Christmas flash cards from MES English. The elf was the duck card, but I told them when they saw the angel to spin around. You can add variations like that to make it more interesting.

If you are looking for some free flashcards to play this game, I recommend MES English www.mes-english.com. It is a great resource.

Great Start! How to break the ice with new young esl students

Today I taught two classes of new students, about 40 kids. The kids were great, and they were only five years old. Since it was their first lesson, I was very careful about how I started the class with them. I wanted to make them really relaxed and comfortable first. To me, this is the most important thing with young learners. Once they are comfortable with you as a teacher, then they are much easier to teach.

The Warm Up

Todays warm up was using familiar words, and actions. So I said "Hello" and

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had them repeat, then I asked them to jump. Every country is different, but in Japan the word for jump is the same as English, so it's a good action to teach right away. I also had them sit down, and stand up, several times. Then I took all this and made it into a little game. "Sit down, stand up, jump! Hello, sit down" gradually increasing the speed until everyone was laughing. After this, they felt relaxed with me, and I went straight into Numbers. Another great thing to teach for first timers.

Numbers

I do a few things with numbers for the first lesson. Most kids in Japan have heard English numbers, so they are already a bit familiar with them. This, again, makes them comfortable. So I use flashcards to teach 1-10, then I do it backwards 10-1. Next we sing Dream English Let's Count. http://www.dreamenglish.com/freedownload

First I teach them the dance and song, then we do it with the music. Afterwards, I ask them how old they are. In this case 5, so I show them the number 5, and teach them to say, "I am 5 years old". Very simple, but if you think about it, not bad for a 5 year old who has never spoken English in their life.

Teaching Opposites with Actions, and Using Opposites to Sing!

I really like to teach opposites to children, because they are so useful and fun for the kids. When I teach them, I ask the students to stand up and we do them with actions. My current favorites are as follows:

Big/Small, Long/Short, Quiet/Loud, Happy/Sad, Slow/Fast

I usually start out with big/small and have the kids make a big circle above their heads for big, then crunch into a ball for small. For slow/fast first we start walking slowly, then speed up to fast. I think you get the picture. The students always enjoy doing these actions, and I feel they really learn the meaning of the words. You can follow up by drawing a big circle on the board, and a small circle. Ask the students, "Is this circle big or small?" Next I draw a happy face in one of the circles and ask, "Is this a happy or sad face?" This really ties the ideas together for the students.

Singing with Opposites

I spoke a bit in an earlier blog about singing with some opposites, loud and soft. Another way I use opposites while singing a familiar song is to say, "sing with a happy face, now sing with a sad face." I have just started doing this, but it is really fun. Be creative and try things out, I think children are really creative and will enjoy trying out these new ideas with you. Happy Singing!

Easy Counting Game

I often use this quick and easy numbers game: Ask the students to repeat the number of claps, jumps, or spins after you and do them. For example, say "Four jumps!" and have the students say that, and then jump four times.

For older students, I ask them to choose what they want to do, and have them ask the class. In the middle of the Numbers Blues there is a section where I say. "One Spin, Two Jumps, Three Claps". This is a good warm up song for this game.

Thank you for reading my ideas!

I hope you find some of these ideas useful. If you have any ideas you would like to share with me, or questions, please feel free to email me at matt@dreamenglish.com

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For more information, free children song downloads, flashcards, coloring, worksheets, lesson ideas and more please check out my websites:

http://www.dreamenglish.com and http://www.freeabcsongs.com http://www.123listening.com Or my blog:

http://www.dreamenglish.com/blog

Happy Singing! Matt Fukuoka Japan 2009

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