

PRINCIPLES OF TEACHING DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS

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Annotation: This article discusses the progress of learning foreign languages at different ages groups and the role of various teaching principles in this process, as well as problems that students encounter in communicative and speaking practice and appropriate solutions for them.

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Teaching to different age groups requires adaptation of teaching methods as each age group has different student motivations. Teachers can benefit from the help of a teaching assistant (TA) when working with highly energetic and intrinsically motivated kindergartners. Elementary school students need teaching styles that help them adapt academically to their new environment and support a combination of extrinsic and intrinsic motivation.

Peer pressure and extrinsic motivation affect older students more than their younger peers, meaning teachers should expect to adapt to more assertive and resilient teaching methods.

What to expect from training in different age groups

It's no secret that different teachers have different teaching styles when it comes to teaching students of different ages, class sizes, classroom technologies, etc. Some teachers prefer to sing songs with kindergartners that require them to enthusiastically re-evaluate their actions. Others prefer to focus on quieter activities with mature age groups of students. Regardless of your personal preferences, it is always important to have a clear understanding of the main features of teaching different age groups. Why is this? Schools and language centers almost always determine your training schedule, and this often includes teaching in different age groups. Even if you work specifically in a primary school (for example), you should always be prepared to take into account the different characteristics and concerns of all age groups. A teacher's ability to do this is often what sets him apart from the average teacher and makes him an excellent teacher.

The three main age groups (i.e. academic levels) that we will discuss in detail here are:

Kindergarten (3-6 years old)

Primary school (7 – 13 years old)

High school (14-18 years old) Kindergarten

Welcome to the most energetic age group of the three! Elementary and high school students can also be very energetic, but in kindergarten you will be focusing too much on basic sentences and activities throughout lessons due to the students' young age and how they receive and retain information. This is often done even when performing basic tasks (which for other age groups may already be established routines, such as raising your hand to ask a question, collecting things at the end of class, etc.). Expect lots of songs, activities, games, videos, nap time, and a lot of tiredness after completing your first kindergarten lesson!

Two key characteristics of this age group are:

1. Presence of a strong teaching assistant (TA).

Because kindergarten teachers are just little people learning to function in the “real world,” they need help with a variety of activities that are the building blocks of everyday life. In the classroom, teaching approaches may include wiping and blowing your nose, going to the bathroom, saying “thank you” politely, standing in a straight line when necessary, etc. These tasks are difficult to accomplish in a large group of students. if you are a team of one. A teaching assistant will help your students complete these tasks to make it easier to achieve the academic goal of your lesson.

2. Intrinsic motivation

In kindergartens, the focus is not on what you teach, but on how you teach it! This is due to the fact that students of this age group are internally motivated and themselves get joy from playing games, songs, activities, i.e. there is no alternative goal, but pure enjoyment of the moment. You should adapt your teaching methods to reflect this intrinsic motivation. Primary school

Primary school is an interesting age group to teach after you've taught kindergarten. At this age, students are introduced to the more formal aspects of education, such as sitting at proper desks, taking written classes/exams, and gaining greater independence, for example. they don't need a teaching assistant to accompany them to the bathroom.

Two key characteristics of this age group are:

1. Academic adjustment

This age can be a challenge for both teacher and student, as some students often need time to adjust to a more formal teaching style. Students now typically sit at their desks throughout class, spending less time singing songs and playing games and more time doing writing activities. This can be difficult for students to adjust to, especially if their parents put more pressure on them to succeed academically. When teaching this age group, you will still have a very energetic class, but the classes are just a little more focused on introducing formal education (which students will receive for the rest of their educational journey in high school, university, etc.).

2. Both external and internal motivation.

As elementary school students have undergone quite a big leap in learning style, you will notice that their type of motivation also changes - they become more interested in competing with their classmates. Kindergarten students also understand the concept of winning/losing a game, but elementary school students gradually become motivated, achieving better academic results than their classmates. High school

In general, high school students tend to bully new teachers more than when they teach different age groups. This often happens because teachers remember what they were like in high school and are also afraid of being seen in a bad light. The good news is that as you get older, you can recognize that adolescence and tendencies are critical to human development, and you don't have to take what your students say to heart, as it is often the result of peer pressure peers. Let's explore this a little more.

Two key characteristics of this age group are:

1. Peer pressure

Although teaching teenagers can be more intimidating, the experience also provides an opportunity to quickly develop your teaching style and skills. There is no more powerful teacher than a teacher who is indifferent to the reactions of his students and remains steadfast in his teaching approach and outward confidence!

2. Extrinsic motivation

Considering the previous point, teenagers are subject to much more peer pressure and are more mature than younger age groups. Thus, they have more extrinsic motivation in what they do in class - they strive to look good in front of their classmates and get high enough grades to get into university (in many cases).

Whatever your preferences for age groups may be after reading this blog and in the future, keep in mind that you may change your mind about your teaching several times as your teaching approaches, skills and preferences will also change while you as a teacher (and person) continue to grow!

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