

## ACTIVE METHODS IN TEACHING EFL FOR YOUNG LEARNERS

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**Abstract:** Active methods in teaching English as a Foreign Language (EFL) for young learners focus on dynamic, learner-centered approaches that prioritize interaction, engagement, and creativity. These methods emphasize meaningful communication and hands-on activities that align with the developmental characteristics of children. By integrating games, storytelling, songs, and group work, educators can create an immersive and stimulating environment where language learning becomes a natural process. This article examines the benefits of active teaching methods, their theoretical basis, and practical applications, highlighting their role in fostering motivation, enhancing retention, and building communication skills among young learners.

**Keywords:** Active learning, EFL, young learners, interactive teaching methods, child-centered education, language acquisition

Children are remarkable people, and they all see and engage with the world in different ways. They distinguish themselves as social beings with their own rhythms and techniques by bringing a feeling of wonder, creativity, and curiosity (Amira, D. 2020). It is crucial to acknowledge this distinctiveness while making sure kids are equipped to handle the demands of a fast-paced, globally interconnected society as we traverse the complexity of the globalisation era (Octaviana, 2017).

Consider a child entering a classroom where each lesson presents a completely new idea, skill, or tale that they have never heard or tried. Every experience becomes an essential component of resilience and adaptation in addition to knowledge. The world is changing quickly in the age of globalisation, therefore it is important to provide kids with opportunities to learn, ask questions, and develop. By introducing students to a variety of educational opportunities, we pique their interest and enable them to see beyond their immediate environment, leading to concepts and opportunities they may not have previously considered.

However, kids also require areas to connect, feel, and think. Consider how a toddler might learn to communicate their feelings after listening to a moving tale or having an emotional discussion. These experiences help students develop empathy, compassion, and the capacity to manage relationships in a multicultural society. The combination of these emotional experiences and intellectual inquiry produces a balance that equips kids to flourish rather than just endure. In the end, fostering kids in this manner is about honouring their current selves rather than just preparing them for the future. Understanding their distinct ways of being and helping them to comprehend both the outside world and themselves is the goal.

Teaching young learners requires approaches that cater to their energy, curiosity, and capacity for creativity. Active methods offer a pathway to make language learning both enjoyable and effective. Unlike traditional approaches that often rely heavily on memorization and repetition, active methods immerse students in meaningful communication and situational learning. For example, games play a pivotal role in active teaching methods. Through language games, children practice vocabulary and grammar in a way that feels more like play than study. Games can be adapted to focus on listening, speaking, reading, or writing skills, ensuring a balanced

approach to language acquisition. For instance, a simple game like "Simon Says" not only introduces new vocabulary but also strengthens listening comprehension and motor coordination.

Storytelling is another powerful tool in active EFL teaching. By engaging children's imagination, stories create an emotional connection to the language. Teachers can tell or read stories that align with the students' language level, encouraging them to predict, ask questions, or even act out parts of the story. This method not only improves comprehension but also provides contextual exposure to vocabulary and grammar structures.

Songs and chants are highly effective in helping young learners internalize language patterns. Music aids memory retention and allows for repetitive practice without monotony. Songs with actions, such as "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes," integrate movement, making the learning process multi-sensory and highly engaging. Chants and songs differ primarily in that the former concentrate on pronunciation or simply "making" English sounds. Chants are nearly as simple as songs to learn since they rhyme. Students are able to better memorise the lexical items by learning chants (Sarvarbek, K. 2020).

Role-playing and dramatization encourage learners to use language in real-life scenarios. Through activities like shopping dialogues or imaginary travel situations, children practice speaking and listening in a risk-free environment. These activities also promote creativity, teamwork, and cultural awareness. Active methods are supported by educational theories such as constructivism and communicative language teaching. Constructivist theories, particularly those by Piaget and Vygotsky, emphasize learning as a social and experiential process, which aligns perfectly with interactive and participatory activities. Communicative approaches, on the other hand, focus on the practical use of language in real contexts, a principle that underpins most active methods.

By implementing active teaching methods, educators not only make language learning enjoyable but also foster intrinsic motivation in young learners. The emphasis on interaction and creativity allows children to develop a deeper connection with the language, ultimately leading to greater proficiency and confidence in communication. Active methods in teaching EFL to young learners create a vibrant, engaging, and supportive environment that aligns with children's developmental needs and natural learning tendencies. By integrating games, stories, songs, and role-playing into the curriculum, educators foster not only language acquisition but also essential skills like creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration. These methods encourage learners to engage with the language actively and meaningfully, transforming the learning process into an enjoyable and memorable experience. Grounded in theories of social interaction and communication, active methods enable young learners to build confidence and competence in using English. As such, they represent a powerful approach to equipping children with the tools needed for long-term language success.

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