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Annotation: *The article Methodology of Teaching English to Children explores various effective strategies for teaching English as a second language (ESL) to young learners. It highlights methodologies such as Total Physical Response (TPR), Communicative Language Teaching (CLT), Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT), and the Natural Approach, all of which cater to the unique developmental needs of children. The article emphasizes the importance of play-based learning, phonics for early literacy, scaffolding, and multisensory learning to make language acquisition engaging and accessible. Storytelling, games, and task-based activities are presented as essential tools for creating an interactive and supportive language-learning environment. The article concludes that a successful approach blends these techniques to promote active language use and foster a positive learning atmosphere. This resource is valuable for educators seeking to adapt their teaching practices to suit the cognitive and emotional development of young language learners.*

Keywords: *English language teaching (ELT), Children language learning, Total Physical Response (TPR), Communicative Language Teaching (CLT), Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT), Play-based learning, Phonics instruction, Multisensory learning, Early literacy, Storytelling in language learning, Language acquisition, Scaffolding techniques, ESL for children, Interactive language teaching*

Introduction:

Teaching English to children requires a unique methodology that incorporates engaging strategies, child-friendly resources, and developmentally appropriate practices. Children differ from adults in how they process language, which necessitates a more dynamic, interactive approach. Below are key methodologies that cater to young learners:

1. Total Physical Response (TPR)

Total Physical Response is a language teaching method developed by Dr. James Asher, which emphasizes physical movement to react to verbal input. For children, especially younger learners, this method is particularly effective because it aligns with their natural learning tendencies. Children enjoy being active, and by associating language with movement, retention is enhanced. For instance, when teaching action verbs like "run," "jump," or "sit," teachers can model the actions, and students follow along.

Benefits:

Engages multiple learning styles (kinesthetic and auditory).

Reduces anxiety, as children can respond physically rather than verbally.

Supports vocabulary acquisition through repetition.

2. Communicative Language Teaching (CLT)

Communicative Language Teaching focuses on enabling students to communicate meaningfully in the target language. For children, this approach involves activities that mimic real-life situations, like role-playing, storytelling, and games. The key idea is that language learning is most effective when children have opportunities to use the language in context.

Activities:

Role-play: Simulating conversations in a shop, classroom, or home.

Storytelling: Creating stories together where each student contributes ideas.

Language games: Using games like “Simon Says” or vocabulary bingo to practice in a fun environment.

3. Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT)

In TBLT, children learn language by completing meaningful tasks. Tasks might include making a poster, designing a project, or participating in a group challenge. Children focus on the task, and language acquisition happens naturally as they use English to complete it

Key Features:

Focus on task completion rather than language form.

Encourages collaboration and critical thinking.

Suitable for various proficiency levels, as tasks can be tailored to the group's abilities.

4. The Natural Approach

The Natural Approach, developed by Stephen Krashen and Tracy Terrell, emphasizes understanding language before speaking it, focusing on exposure and comprehensible input. For children, this means surrounding them with language they can understand through gestures, visuals, and simple sentences. The idea is to create a low-stress environment where children can acquire the language naturally, without pressure to perform perfectly.

Implementation:

Use of visuals, gestures, and realia (real objects) to make language comprehensible.

Focusing on listening and understanding before expecting spoken output.

Encouraging children to speak when they feel ready, fostering a positive and non-threatening atmosphere.

5. Play-Based Learning

Children learn best through play, which is a natural medium for exploration and understanding. By incorporating games, songs, and playful activities, English learning becomes engaging and relevant to a child's world.

Examples:

Songs and Chants: Using music and rhythm helps children internalize language patterns.

Dramatization: Acting out stories or dialogues helps with comprehension and memory retention.

Language games: Games like "Memory Match" or "Charades" can teach vocabulary in a way that feels like fun rather than work.

6. Phonics and Early Literacy Skills

For younger children learning to read and write in English, phonics is an essential component of the methodology. Phonics instruction helps children

understand the relationship between sounds and letters, building the foundation for reading fluency.

Steps:

Begin with simple sounds and letter recognition.

Use songs and rhymes to reinforce sound-letter correspondence.

Gradually move from simple words to more complex reading materials.

7. Scaffolding Techniques

Scaffolding involves breaking down learning tasks into manageable steps, providing support as needed, and gradually reducing assistance as children become more proficient. This is especially crucial when teaching English to children, as they require clear guidance and repeated practice to internalize new language concepts.

Examples:

Modeling: Teachers demonstrate correct usage before asking students to produce the language.

Guided practice: Activities like sentence completion or matching exercises provide structured opportunities for students to practice.

Independent use: As students gain confidence, they are encouraged to use the language independently.

8. Multisensory Learning

Young learners benefit from multisensory approaches that engage their sight, hearing, touch, and movement. Multisensory learning can be particularly helpful for children with different learning preferences, as it allows them to absorb language through a variety of channels.

Examples:

Visual aids: Flashcards, pictures, and videos.

Auditory support: Songs, rhymes, and listening exercises.

Tactile activities: Writing letters in sand, cutting and pasting vocabulary pictures, or using blocks to form words.

9. Storytelling and Reading

Children have a natural affinity for stories. Using storytelling in English lessons not only helps with vocabulary and comprehension but also engages their imagination. Teachers can use picture books, interactive story apps, or even create stories as a class.

Methods:

Reading aloud with emphasis on intonation and emotion to make the story engaging.

Asking comprehension questions to check understanding.

Encouraging students to retell the story in their own words.

Conclusion

Teaching English to children requires a methodology that prioritizes engagement, simplicity, and repetition, all while respecting their developmental stages. Effective methodologies, such as TPR, CLT, and play-based learning, make language acquisition enjoyable and natural. The most successful classrooms blend these approaches, creating a learning environment where children can explore and use English meaningfully, setting a strong foundation for future language skills.

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