



How to Teach English to Children Early on

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Abstract

Infrastructure and facilities should be sufficient to support the early introduction of English. To properly implement learning management, the teacher, who is a part of the learning process manager, must be aware of the early childhood thinking framework (AUD). Learning should be controlled to produce engaging and fulfilling learning activities. To make learning English for young children meaningful and enjoyable, singing (song) is used as a teaching tool. Children can be engaged in learning English by using a variety of approaches, tactics, games, and learning resources that will make them feel like they are playing rather than learning. Even the local culture can be useful for making learning enjoyable for AUD. The topic of learning English for AUD, in general, and through singing, in particular, will be covered in this article. A positive attitude toward learning English will keep AUD from being disinterested, dissatisfied, or even terrified by it.

Keywords: learning, English, song, early childhood.

1. Introduction

It is ideal for parents to become aware of the importance of early English language acquisition better to prepare their kids for success in the global economy when they are older. English can be learned through leisure activities like viewing films and reading books in addition to official schooling. Children who start learning English early are less reluctant to make mistakes, which helps them acquire the language quickly. Additionally, learning English at a young age has many advantages for kids, including enhancing kids' cognitive skills; enhancing kids' brains, including their capacity for problem-solving, critical thinking, and good listening; enhancing kids' memory, concentration, and multitasking skills; enhancing kids' creativity; and aiding kids in academic matters.

English is crucial for the academic community and other spheres of life as a global language. As a result, it is appropriate for you to start teaching English to your kids at a young age. Children's brains are still rapidly developing when they are young, claims Southern Illinois University psychologist Albert Ford, Ph.D. Additionally, Albert claimed that toddlers' linguistic patterns and speaking prowess had not yet fully developed. However, numerous studies have demonstrated that toddlerhood is, in fact, the ideal age to promote language development in kids.

Video learning has been shown to considerably improve student learning results in prior studies (Hapsari & Hanif, 2019; Chen, 2020; Rupp et al., 2019). Themes such as learning strategies, obstacles, support, and instructor motivation emerged from Aliyyah et al. (2020) research on online learning or video medium. Another study concludes that watching educational videos can motivate and excite young learners (Marchman et al., 2020; Hapsari & Hanif, 2019). The learning movies produced have a runtime that is too long, which results in subpar concentration, which is a drawback of earlier studies. Additionally, there hasn't been any research on wayang media used in early childhood learning videos. Videos created utilizing wayang media to teach Indonesian arts are an advantage of developed media. Additionally, this media is offered based on student characteristics to improve students' comprehension of learning the English language. In order to keep the child's attention, the video is also presented for a brief period of time.

The goal of this research is to produce early childhood learning videos as wayang media. The created learning films are intended to inspire youngsters to learn so that they can enhance their English vocabulary in early infancy. Due to the fact that their surroundings do not use English, some parents may believe that teaching English to children is a little more difficult. However, this study covered 7 strategies for starting early English instruction with kids.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Materials

Picture cards, comic strips, English song media, and English films are just a few of the resources for learning English. The applications can typically be found in the form of games, music, vocabulary, images, or English conversation help.

2.2. Methods

The key to teaching children English is comprehending the fundamentals of language acquisition and utilizing them in a way that keeps kids interested in learning. Children live in a world of pretend play and mimicry (Hashemi & Azizinezhad, 2011; Aronin & Yelenevskaya, 2022). There are seven techniques to teach English to kids from a young age, including using it in everyday interactions, speaking it frequently, learning it in a pleasant way, using technical media, reading English storybooks, don't get caught up in grammar, and using media posters on the wall.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Use it in Everyday Conversations

The use of the language in normal conversation is one of the finest ways to teach kids English. Try to speak to them in English frequently. Children can automatically become accustomed to and be able to speak in English in this fashion (Snell & Cushing, 2022).

3.2. English Routine

Another effective strategy for kids to learn to speak English properly is to practice it often every day. Along with regular talks, you can set up a certain period of time each day for kids to practice their English (Stevens et al., 2018). Therefore, it is preferable if the English learning session is set up for a short period of time, such as 15 to 20 minutes because children have a tendency to get bored rapidly. It is actually better to have short, consistent study sessions than extended, erratic hours.

3.3. Learn English the Fun Way

Engaging kids in a game is the best method to boost their happiness and interest in learning English. You can give other games, such as scrabble, ones for electronics, or others, a go to help kids improve their English. The more dopamine, or a hormone that makes you feel joyful, is released during an activity, says Dr. Martha Burns, one of the foremost neurologists, the better the youngster is able to remember the activity. Similarly, when learning English, it is easier for kids to remember when it is done in an entertaining way.

3.4. Utilizing Technology

Technology and gadget development do not always have negative effects. You may now simply use internet resources to prevent kids from speaking English from an early age. You may look up intriguing English-language photos and videos, for instance. These images and movies are frequently one of the learning tools that kids enjoy. Children might be more eager and enthusiastic about learning English.

3.5. Reading English Story Books

Even if your child is too young to read, you can still give him engaging books. You might try offering children's English storybooks for them to share. Reading aloud to kids can not only help them learn English but also help you become closer to them. Children's storybooks can be read to them before sleep because this is when they are more receptive to learning. In this way, it's simple to recall what you like.

3.6. Don't get hung up on grammar

Avoid putting too much emphasis on grammar while teaching English to children. Grammar errors are common among many people, even native speakers, especially young children who are still learning. To encourage youngsters to speak up, express themselves, and maintain interest in English language learning, try not to correct these errors all the time and let them make tiny mistakes. While it's important to correct your child's language errors, don't put too much emphasis on doing so.

3.7. Putting Posters on the Wall

The next suggestion, which is also the easiest to implement, is to place eye-catching English posters in strategic locations throughout your home. You could, for example, hang vegetable posters in the kitchen or limbs in the restroom. Children can simultaneously learn English while doing daily activities without investing any more time. It is important not to separate the opening of local culture from introducing English to AUD. On the other hand, local culture can be utilized as a tool, a kind of media, or even a resource for learning English. Children

can be taught to introduce culture, customs, or traditions in their community or at home by speaking English, for instance. Children learning English vocabulary can be introduced to Indonesian fruit names, numerous traditional games, and various regional attire. In other words, teaching kids English enhances their grasp of the community's culture. Ethno pedagogy and cross-cultural activities are the best approaches for this type of learning. This is consistent with Grabe's (2002) assertion that teaching children a second language—in this case, English—needs to include teaching them about the local culture and their environment (Richards et al., 2002).

The aforementioned scientific evidence demonstrates the value of beginning English instruction early in life. The many advantages that can be attained by learning English at a young age have been demonstrated by numerous studies and research both domestically and overseas. You can begin acquainting yourself with English in a number of straightforward methods, such as by reading books or singing songs, or you can register in reputable English classes that already have a unique curriculum for kids and qualified teachers.

Therefore, you might try these 7 methods at home to prevent kids from speaking English from a young age. In addition to the techniques mentioned above, you can encourage your child to learn English in school. For kids in early childhood through primary school, there is a dedicated online school called Alta School. Character education, home-based projects, live teaching, learning kits, and many more engaging educational resources are available in schools that follow the homeschooling model. This school does, however, employ blended learning techniques. Your child can discover their talents and interests at a young age by enrolling in Alta School.

4. Conclusion

It is essential to prepare teachers knowledgeable about early childhood development theory and the language development framework before introducing English to young children. According to these experts, young children can learn effectively if given access to proper amenities and educational (play) facilities. Teachers can be encouraged to use songs, rhymes, and chants as enjoyable and practical teaching aids by being aware of the child's mindset. Singing, communicative approach, and approach-based understanding are the suggested methods and media for teaching young children to speak English. The ability of children to learn English can be exploited to promote exposure to and understanding of the local culture. The ethnopedagogical and intercultural approaches can be used to teach English to AUDs.

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