Ten things that make a great primary EFL teacher Christopher Graham

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

distant wain

May 2016







A great primary EFL teacher

- 1. has good classroom management skills
- 2. knows about classroom language
- 3. uses group work
- 4. knows when to use L1
- 5. understands the psychology of young learners
- 6. uses assessment tools well
- 7. understands the issues with listening and speaking
- 8. knows how children read and write
- 9. tells stories
- 10. reflects

1. has good classroom management skills

What are your worries?

What strategies do you use now?

Three Rs Rules

Negotiated at the start of the term

Displayed for reference

Part of 'whole-school policy' (where possible)

Responsibilities

Rotate responsibilities – each child has a 'job'

Group roles

Routines

Entering/leaving the classroom

Stopping activities

All content copyright © Christopher Graham 2016

Four rules of classroom management

1. Get them in.

2. Get on with it.

3. Get on with them.

4. Get them out.

Stop!

Distinctive noise Hands up Clapping Count down 1-2-3 eyes on me Give me five!

2. knows about classroom language

What is it?



Maximizing exposure to English

Children learn English successfully when they are immersed in the language.

Listening and following classroom language is a basic requirement in the classroom.

This gives pupils the opportunity to listen and respond to authentic English.

Opportunities

instructions greetings praise thanks control

Instructions

when pupils are quiet and paying attention.

supported with gesture or

demonstration.

clear, simple and used often.

3. uses group work

meaningful communication turn-taking listening skills responsibility and autonomy allows children to take on different roles maximises speaking frees the teacher respect for others' ideas supports less able children varies interaction patterns

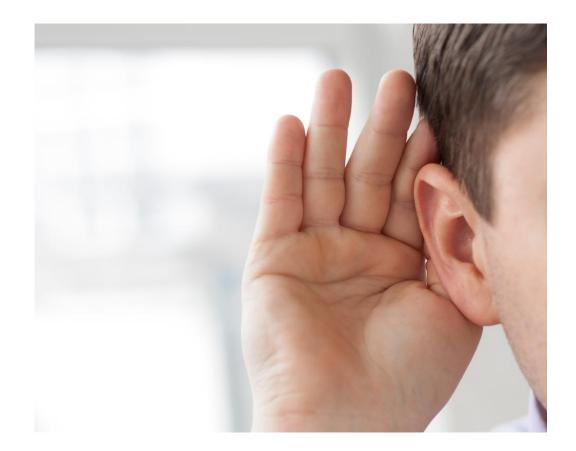
Groupwork What stops effective groupwork?

"I went into an English classroom of 30 7-year-olds. The children were all sitting in groups of about six to eight. However, during the whole lesson, I didn't see any groupwork!"

Why not? Think (write). Pair. Share. 4. knows when to use L1 – and when not to

abstract concepts and vocabulary comfort and reassurance for children discussion of problems discussion of behaviour issues

5. understands the psychology of young learners



Discussion

The teacher should correct grammar and pronunciation immediately.

Young children are better language learners than adults.

The teacher should never use L1 in the classroom.

Learning the alphabet is the first step in literacy learning.

Children need to hear the language (e.g., a sentence) before they can say it.

A silent classroom shows children are learning.

Children learn languages quickly.

We need to give children tests to check they are learning.

Characteristics of 7 year-olds

Think of a primary child you know.

Identify any characteristics that might affect teaching and learning.

Young learners

Whole child development

Learning by 'doing'

Shorter concentration span

Egocentric learning

Stress-free learning environment

6. uses assessment tools well

How do we assess children?

How do we assess children?

We need to know the learning objectives!

Observe children doing activities

Listen to children speak

Observe handwriting

Ask questions

Observe understanding when playing games, doing TPR activities, etc.

Self-assessment

Self-assessment

become responsible for their own learning are able to recognise next steps in learning feel secure about not always being right raises self-esteem: 'I can' not 'I can't' become actively involved in the learning process

become more independent and motivated

7. understands the issues with listening and speaking



All content copyright © Christopher Graham 2016

Listening

What helps children get meaning from sounds?

context and purpose

repetition

intonation

visuals

Speaking and listening

Speaking follows listening ...

G Speaking imitates listening

□ Speaking responds to listening

Supporting speaking

When will children speak?

When they are ready to take the risk ...

- □ after listening
- □ interested in the topic/activity
- need to communicate
- □ feel safe and confident

8. knows how children read and write

What skills do we need to teach, before we start teaching children to read and write?

Early literacy skills

Reading	Writing
 Visual comparison Visual discrimination Visual directionality Visual memory 	 Hand-eye coordination Spatial awareness Directionality Fluent hand movements Writing PPP

Early literacy activities

What activities can we use to teach these skills?

Early literacy activities

Reading	Writing
 Spot the difference Look and count Jigsaws Sequencing pictures Pelmanism Kim's game Name objects L to R 	 Join the dots Cutting Drawing Completing pictures Colouring Tracking Tracing Joining with a line

Whole-word recognition - which words?

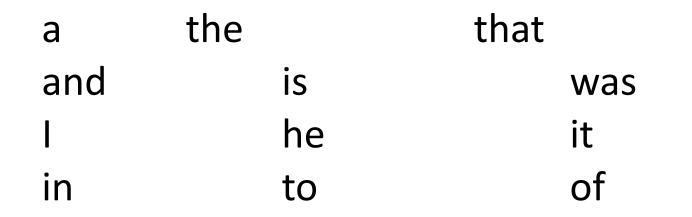
Which words can we teach using pictures?

Content words		Grammatical/high- frequency words	
blue	jump	at	the
pencil	foot	have	on
big	car	are	was
sing	table	you	because
telephone		said	

All content copyright © Christopher Graham 2016

HFWs

These 12 words make up, on average, **one quarter** of all reading and writing:



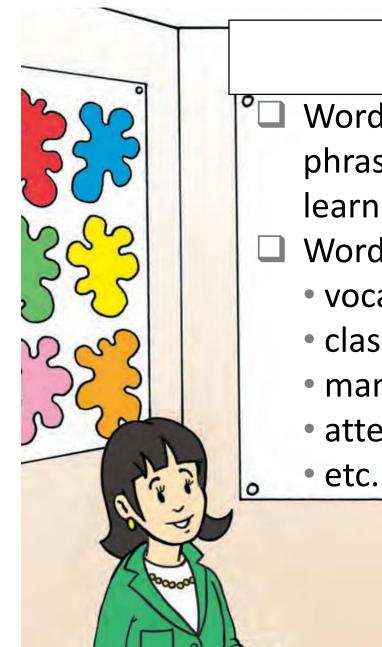
PPP



Pencil grip Posture Paper position

Display texts

Celebration Stimulation Information



Word walls

- Word walls are displays of words and phrases that pupils have learnt or are learning.
- Word walls can be used for:
 - vocabulary
 - classroom language
 - manners
 - attendance



9. tells stories

Stories:

Meaningful Fun Can be made comprehensible Repetitive Develop concentration skills

10. reflects



All content copyright © Christopher Graham 2016

For more information Please contact

Thank you

A MACMILLAN SCIENCE AND EDUCATION DIVISION