Top-10 approaches primary teachers plan to take to the classroom this year

1. Show words in several contexts
2. Make reading fun
3. Talk about Ukrainians
4. Give examples before grammar rules
5. Set real goals
6. Support students' progress
7. Propose real role models
8. Sing songs in different voices and with different speeds
9. Mix language skills in one lesson
10. Add routine

Carefully chosen by the participants of Back to School Conference 2024



WATCH CONFERENCE

Show words in several contexts

Simple Steps

1.Pick a word you want to teach. Let's say it's "brave."

2. Come up with a few sentences that use the word "brave" in different ways. For example:

- "*The firefighter was **brave** when she rescued the cat from the tree*."
- "*It was **brave** of you to speak up in class today*."
- "*The little mouse is **brave** to face the big cat*."

3. Write or display these sentences for your students. Read them aloud together.

4. If possible, act out the sentences or show pictures that go along with them. This helps kids connect the word to real-life situations.

5. Ask your students to think of times when they were brave or when they saw someone else being brave. This helps them relate the word to their own experiences.

Why It Works

✓ Seeing a word used differently helps kids see its full meaning, not just one narrow definition.

✓ The sentences provide context clues that help kids figure out the word's meaning.

✓ Acting things out and sharing personal stories makes learning more engaging and memorable.

Make reading fun

Simple Steps

This is all about making reading an active, engaging experience rather than just passively looking at words on a page.

1. Use your voice to create different characters, add sound effects, and change your tone to match the mood of the story. This makes reading a performance!
2. Bring the story to life with simple props. Even a silly hat can spark imagination and make kids feel part of the story.
3. Let your students become the characters in the book! Have them act out scenes or create freeze frames to show their understanding of the story.
4. Talk about how the story relates to their own experiences or the world around them. This helps them see that reading is about more than just words on a page!

Why It Works

- ✓ Active participation keeps kids focused and interested.
- ✓ Acting out and discussing the story helps kids understand it better.
- ✓ Fun activities create a positive connection to reading.

Talk about Ukrainians

Simple Steps

This strategy is all about sparking curiosity and building empathy by immersing your classroom in a little bit of Ukrainian culture!

1. Pick a corner in your classroom and transform it into a Ukrainian Culture Corner.
2. Use Ukrainian colours, hang pictures of Ukrainian landscapes, samples of traditional costumes, and maps of Ukraine and your region.
3. Gather objects with the parents' help that represent Ukrainian culture.
4. Include books about Ukraine, simple Ukrainian phrases for kids to learn in both Ukrainian and English, and colouring pages of Ukrainian symbols.
5. Use this corner for storytelling about Ukrainian folklore, listening to Ukrainian folk and modern music, or trying a simple Ukrainian craft.

Why It Works

- ✓ Young learners respond well to colourful visuals and hands-on experiences.
- ✓ The corner sparks questions and encourages children to explore and learn more.
- ✓ By learning more about their culture, children begin to understand and appreciate others.

Give examples before grammar rules

Simple Steps

Instead of starting with confusing grammar explanations, we'll first immerse kids in the language through lots of examples. This helps them naturally grasp the patterns before we even mention the 'G' word (grammar!).

1. Decide what you want to teach. Let's say it's the simple present tense for actions they do every day.
2. Instead of saying, "*The simple present tense is used for habits*," let's show them!
   - Act out brushing your teeth and say, "*I brush my teeth every morning*."
   - Draw a picture of a child eating breakfast and say, "*She eats breakfast at 7 o'clock*."
   - Have the kids mime different actions and you describe them: "*She plays football. He sings a song*."
3. Get Them Involved
   - Ask questions that prompt them to use the target language: "*What do you do every morning?*"
   - Play games where they have to complete sentences using the correct form.
   - Have them draw pictures and write captions about their daily routines.
4. Only after they've seen and used the language a lot, then you can introduce the grammar rule. Keep it simple: "*We use the simple present tense to talk about things we do regularly*."

Why It Works

- ✓ Young kids learn best by doing and experiencing. This approach is less intimidating and more fun.
- ✓ It helps them develop a natural 'feel' for the language.
- ✓ When they finally learn the grammar rule, it 'clicks' because they've already seen it in action!

Set real goals

Simple Steps

Setting goals helps children understand where they are, where they want to go, and how to get there. It makes learning more focused and fun!

1. Begin by asking your students: "*What's something you'd love to learn or get better at?*" Encourage them to dream big, but also guide them to break it down into smaller, achievable steps.
2. Introduce the idea of SMART goals. Explain each part in a kid-friendly way:
    - **S**pecific: "*What exactly do you want to achieve?*"
    - **M**easurable: "*How will you know you've reached your goal?*"
    - **A**chievable: "*Is it something you can realistically do?*"
    - **R**elevant: "*Does it matter to you and your learning?*"
    - **T**ime-Bound: "*When do you want to achieve it by?*"
3. Have a dedicated time for goal setting. It could be at the start of a new topic, a new term, or even every week.
4. When a child achieves their goal, make it a big deal! Celebrate their effort and progress.

Why It Works

- ✓ When kids set their own goals, they feel more invested and excited about learning.
- ✓ This boosts their confidence and makes them want to keep learning.
- ✓ Setting and working towards goals teaches kids to be responsible and take ownership of their learning. It's a skill that will help them succeed in school and in life!

Support students' progress

Simple Steps

This strategy is all about boosting your students' confidence and helping them see their growth.

1. Talk to your students about what they want to learn in English.
    - Help them break down big goals into smaller, achievable steps. For example, instead of "*I want to speak English fluently*," they might start with "*I can say hello and goodbye in English*."
    - Write these goals on the chart under the relevant skill.
    - Also pick something you're currently teaching, like learning colours or counting to 10.
2. Create a colourful chart with the skill at the top. Divide it into levels (e.g., beginner, getting better, almost there, I can do it!).
3. Write each student's name on a sticky note or small card.
4. As students learn, move their names up the chart to show their progress. Celebrate each move!
5. Regularly take time to look at the chart with your students
    - Ask them how they feel about their progress.
    - Help them set new goals based on what they've already achieved.

Why It Works

- ✓ Students see their accomplishments and feel proud of their progress.
- ✓ It helps students think about what they want to learn and how to get there.
- ✓ Celebrating success makes learning fun and motivating.

Propose real role models

Simple Steps

This strategy is all about connecting language learning to the real world by showcasing people who use English in their daily lives. It's a fantastic way to spark motivation and make learning relevant.

1. Think about what you're currently teaching. Is there a local person who connects to that topic?
2. Introduce the Role Model
    - Start by showing a picture of the person.
    - Share some basic information like their name and what they do.
    - Keep it simple and age-appropriate.
3. Explain why this person is special. Focus on positive actions and qualities.
4. Ask questions to get your students thinking. Encourage your students to share their thoughts and ideas.
5. Discuss how your students can be like their role models. Encourage them to take small steps to make a positive difference.

Why It Works

- ✓ Role models can be tied to any subject, making lessons more engaging and meaningful.
- ✓ Kids see examples of kindness, hard work, and perseverance, which encourages them to develop these qualities.
- ✓ Role models from different backgrounds and cultures show kids the diversity of human experiences and possibilities.

Sing songs in different voices and with different speeds

Simple Steps

Imagine each song as a mini-performance where your students get to try out different voices and speeds, just like actors in a play.

1. Start with a few vocal warm-ups to get those voices ready (e.g., humming, tongue twisters, siren sounds).
2. Have your students try singing the song in different character voices (e.g., a giant, a mouse, a robot, a grandma). Encourage them to be silly and have fun with it!
3. Ask your students to sing the song as if they are feeling different emotions (e.g., happy, sad, angry, excited).
4. Speed Challenge
    - Try singing the song in super slow motion, like everything is moving underwater.
    - Speed up the song, like you're watching a funny cartoon on fast-forward.
5. Combine different voices and speeds for even more fun (e.g., sing in a giant's voice at super-fast speed).

Why It Works

✓ Kids love being silly and trying new things with their voices.
✓ It's It keeps them focused and interested in the song.
✓ It encourages them to think outside the box and express themselves in new ways.

Mix language skills in one lesson

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    - Write these goals on the chart under the relevant skill.
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Add routine

Simple Steps

Bring a sense of predictability to your classroom, making learning both engaging and comfortable for your young learners. Think of this like a familiar song with verses and a chorus, but instead of lyrics, we have learning activities.

1. Start with a fun, quick activity to get those brains buzzing and bodies moving. It could be a song, a game like Simon Says, or even a simple greeting routine where kids say hello in English to their classmates.
2. The Main Activity is the core of your lesson where you introduce new language or practice what they already know. It might be a story, a role-play, or an interactive game centered around your lesson's theme.
3. Give your students a chance to use the new language in a controlled way. Think worksheets, pair work activities, or even simple drawing tasks related to the lesson.
4. Bring everything together with a final activity that reinforces learning. This could be a quick review game, a chance for kids to share what they learned, or even a fun song to end on a high note. Help them set new goals based on what they've already achieved.

Why It Works

- ✓ Young learners thrive on predictability.
- ✓ A clear, repeated lesson structure helps them feel secure and understand what's expected.
- ✓ Routines reduce anxiety and free up mental space for language learning.
- ✓ Repetition helps solidify learning.

Choose your materials



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Try it now



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