

# Teaching Language Through Active Learning



by Michelle Morgan Henry

# Active Learning Produces Better Results

- TEFL Model – the teacher speaks 20% of the time, the learners speak 80% of the time
- Students are more engaged, motivated, and invested in their learning.
- Students collaboratively create more meaning and are more creative.
- Higher-level thinking skills (analyzing, synthesising, and applying) are used.

# The Earlier, the Better!

- Humans begin to recognize speech patterns even before birth.
- The ability to hear different phonetic pronunciation is sharpest before age 3.
- 50% of our learning pathways are created by age 4, another 30% by age 8.
- Bilingualism improves cognitive abilities, especially problem-solving.

# Songs

- Build fluency, pronunciation and correct intonation
  - For older learners:
    - clozes (fill in missing words)
    - rearrange the order
    - incorrect lyrics
  - For young learners:
    - nursery rhymes
    - action songs
    - concept songs
- On YouTube:
- eflashapps
  - Learning Station
  - Learning English for Kids
  - English SingSing
  - ChuChu TV

# Authentic Texts and Books

- For young learners:
  - Dr. Seuss
  - Mo Willems
  - a plethora of fiction and nonfiction picture books
- For older learners:
  - Great Illustrated Classics
  - BBC News in Levels





# Little Reader

- <http://www.brillkids.com>

-English  
-Spanish  
-French  
-Russian  
-Thai  
-Chinese

They also offer math  
and music.

- LeapReader

- <http://www.english-4kids.com/flashcards.html>



- ABC Mouse
- Create “Picture Flash” presentations

# Emergent Reader Printable Books

- <https://www.kindergartenkindergarten.com/emergent-readers/>
- <https://www.themeasuredmom.com/print-2/>
- <https://thisreadingmama.com/>
- <https://www.dltk-teach.com/minibooks/index.htm>
- <http://printables.atozteacherstuff.com/>





# Story Retelling and Role Plays



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# Unstructured Play



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# Engage the Senses: Taste, Smell and Sound



- <https://handsonaswegrow.com/non-touch-sensory-activities/>
- <https://lemonlimeadventures.com/15-taste-safe-toddler-sensory-play-ideas/>
- <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/kids-activities-and-printables/activities-for-kids/activities-explore-taste-0-2-year-olds.html>
- <https://handsonaswegrow.com/edible-sensory-play-ideas/>
- <https://teaching2and3yearolds.com/activities-using-the-five-senses/>



# Engage the Senses: Tactile Experiences





# Fine Motor Skills



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# Arts and Crafts





# Active Games and Scavenger Hunts





# File Folder and Other Teacher-Created Games



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# I Have \_\_\_\_, Who Has \_\_\_\_?

I have blue. Who has the color of grass?	I have green. Who has the color of a banana?	I have yellow. Who has the color of a tree trunk?
I have brown. Who has the color of a tongue.	I have pink. Who has the color of a carrot?	I have orange. Who has the color of a snowman?
I have white. Who has the color of a strawberry?	I have red. Who has the color of a plum?	I have purple. Who has the color of the sky?



# Commercial Games





# Field Trips and Outings

- Natural vocabulary from real objects and real situations
  - parks and playgrounds
  - stores
  - museums
  - petting zoos, farms, zoos
  - Use every opportunity!!!



# Picture Descriptions, Picture Differences, and Information Gap Exercises



Find the differences



	9:00	10:00	11:00	1:00	2:00
Wednesday					
Thursday					
Friday					

A

	9:00	10:00	11:00	1:00	2:00
Wednesday					
Thursday					
Friday					

B

# Key Words to Search for Ideas

- Bilingual Baby
- Teaching Infants
- Teaching Toddlers
- Preschool
- Homeschool
- Active Learning
- Project-based Learning
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning
- <https://getcreativecom.wordpress.com/>