GENERAL PRINCIPLES TO CREATE A POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT IN EFL CHILDREN’S CLASSES

By: Flor María Arteaga de Torres
University of Nariño

Creating a positive environment in EFL classes contributes to stimulating the assimilation of the teaching-learning process.

As language is the main means of communication it is important to know a foreign language to increase knowledge and culture. In this case, educational aids facilitate the learning activity making the learning process easy, simple and interesting.

I hope this paper helps teachers, students and persons related to the teaching of a foreign language, to know the best use of educational aids as they function to create a positive environment and the way to take advantage of them for obtaining a good level of learning.

Taking into account the considerations above it is necessary to keep in mind the following recommendations:

- The teacher is the key figure in the language course. A positive attitude on the part of the teacher is essential to success. The teacher himself must be convinced that all his students have the same capacities to acquire a foreign language, his bright students as well as his slower ones.

- Use of a wide variety of approaches, activities, contexts and skill building techniques creates a comprehensive and dynamic language program.

- It’s important to create opportunities for students to interact with their teachers and their peers.

- Small group work contributes to creating situations where all students have the opportunity to speak.

- Two teachers don’t teach alike, two students don’t learn alike either.

- Work on activities to invite students to share their own ideas, feelings and opinions and to appreciate those of others.

- Developing children’s abilities contributes to reach a positive feedback.

- If the teacher gives verbal commands he must show appropriate actions for those commands.
- Involve the students, and they will learn. It's necessary for the student to participate and contribute according to his/her level and abilities.

- If the atmosphere in your class is free from anxiety, it helps the teacher to provide a relaxed class in which children understand what is being communicated and feel free to use their own language without fear of making errors.

- Poems, songs, videos, games and dances contribute to develop children's imagination.

- Your classes must fill learner's needs and each class must be an expectation for your students, so you are encouraged to avoid boredom.

- Wearing sport clothes helps the teacher be very active and leads the students to have an active participation.

- Children learn a second language quickly and for that reason it is necessary to include educational aids to keep children's attention and strengthen their foreign language skills.

- In the classroom, the teacher works with different educational devices and directs the children with simple language according to their comprehension capacity, taking into consideration the audio-visual capacity, the teacher will look for the "best learning process" by inciting and helping children to recognize and take advantage of their natural capacities, therefore, good material helps motivation and develops vocabulary acquisition.

- Certain stimuli automatically produce specific responses.

- Using didactic material, children are going to be motivated, they will learn faster and will ensure the acquired knowledge, obtaining good results in the teaching-learning process.

- It is important to show appropriate material to children; this material should be related to the children's feelings, taking into account their world and their environmental situation.

- It is necessary to consider that a child comes in contact with the outside world by beginning processes suitable for his age and which can be well manipulated by children.

Finally it is necessary to keep in class a similar or a better environment than in a child's home. It permits him to acquire a knowledge more easily because he doesn't suffer a change from his home to the school. The teacher will avoid boring the children when they are in the critical period of the knowledge process.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**


