

GAMES

FOR SECOND

1. Judy Takakura

Games can be used in teaching English as a second language. They give students a strong foundation of appropriate attitudes and correct practices in the English language. Games can help teachers create a good classroom climate in which students will enjoy learning English as a second language.

Games seem to play an important part in providing experiences that make the student more eager and more able to communicate with others. Games provide good practice of many skills in the English language because they encourage the student's efforts with immediate reward. Games can motivate the student to learn writing and speech skills.

Through games, the student is given many opportunities to learn a given language skill in a variety of settings. Students find learning fun because the skill can be taught in many different ways. Students enjoy using language skills in the games by competing in teams. Language skills are also aroused when the student is challenged to better his own previous record.

Principles and Guides

There are certain principles and guides that should be kept in mind when selecting and constructing games. Some of these are:

1) Games should help in the achieving of classroom goals. They should teach a certain skill and the student must understand the reason for the game. They need to learn to follow rules and develop good sportsmanship.

2) Games should help students learn more efficiently. They should give interesting repetition, enrich and give needed practice

LANGUAGE TEACHING

to learning in the classroom.

3) Determine how games can be best worked. Choose games that can be explained quickly. Have students stop the game while they still have a desire to play.

4) Teach students to play games according to the rules.

5) Some games should permit even the slow learner to win.

6) Some games can be used to provide self competition.

7) If possible, drill games should be self-checking.

8) Games should be attractive in appearance.

Types of Games

There are different types of games. Some of these are:

1) Self-competition. In this type of game the student is challenged to better his own records.

2) Partnership. The student plays with another student, sometimes competing with each other and sometimes helping each other.

3) Active group. The student is given moderate physical activity. Sometimes they are organized as team competitions and sometimes they are in the form of dramatization.

4) Group-quiet. These are directed toward encouraging the student to think, speak and write with clarity.

Students like to play with games which their teachers develop. These games can be easily constructed. It is good to use paper of heavy quality so that it will not tear or bend easily. Shoe boxes, manila folders, and other small boxes are good to store the games.

Manuscript can be used to write directions and lettering for the games. A felt pen is good for this purpose.

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Children seem to learn more readily and with greater enjoyment when they have access to games that make learning fun. Games offer children an approach to learning not usually found in the systematically organized instruction period.

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