

THE FUN WAY OF LEARNING GERMAN IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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THE EUROLANGUAGES PROJECT*

Topic teaching (also known as the integrated approach) can be used to teach German in the Primary School. Topics such as introducing yourself, my family, numbers from 1 to 10, parts of the body, food and drink, animals, colours, in the garden, etc... can be dealt with by using various games and maybe even songs and rhymes. Each topic can last two weeks, having a lesson (approximately one hour) per week.

The following games can be used with Primary school children to start teaching them vocabulary and simple grammar and sentence structures:

“Teaching German can be dealt with by using various games, songs and rhymes”

(*) Reports on other aspects of the project can be found in this issue on pages 24, 25, 28 & 29. More will be given next issue



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Spin the bottle

The students stand in a circle and to start the game the teacher spins a plastic bottle. The person facing the bottom end of the bottle asks questions to the one who faces the neck of the bottle. In this manner, a simple dialogue in the form of an interview can take place. This game can also be used to revise vocabulary or learn new words. One person mentions a letter and a number (eg. A - 5). The other has to say 5 words with this letter (eg. Apfel. Aprikose, Afrika, Anita, Arige) . Opposites can also be learnt through this game.

The invisible handwriting

The teacher mixes three spoonfuls of water and then adds as much salt as possible until no more salt can be dissolved in the water. The students dip the tip of their pencil / biro in this mixture. As soon as the water dries on the paper, the handwriting becomes invisible. Thus, the students have to write their details e.g. where they live, how old they are, etc... on this message paper. The messages are collected in a box. When it is time to read the messages and to guess the name of the person who wrote them, the students select a message which they put in the sun for a while. Then they read it out loud in front of the others and from the hints of the message, they have to guess who is the person that wrote it and who is being referred to in the message.

Hand Puppets

The children are going to paint puppets on their hands/fingers using gem markers. In this manner, they can use and move both hands / fingers as if two people in their family are talking to each other. However, this game can also be carried out by two people sitting opposite each other and using only one hand.

This game is ideal for Drama and other role-play activities.

Telephone Game

The children stand in a row next to each other. The teacher whispers a long (telephone) number to the person next to her/him and this number is whispered on and on from one to the other. Then, the last person calls out the number and the teacher checks if it is correct.

Variation

The teacher can whisper vocabulary words. The last person has to say the word and also its meaning.



OHT Game

With the help of an overhead projector the teacher shows an image of a person. A child is sent out of the classroom and a part of the person's image is rubbed out. When the child comes in, he/she is asked what is missing in the man on the wall. The child has to say which part of his face or body has been left out. Eg. (ein Auge) an eye.

Memory Game

The teacher displays various objects on the table and gives the children 30 seconds to look carefully at them. Afterwards, she covers the objects with a blanket. A person is called out to say the objects that he / she remembers. That student who remembers most or all of the objects wins the game.

This is a good game to revise vocabulary and repeat it in an informal manner.

Here, writing skills can also be tested, since pupils can be called out to write the words on the board.

Painters Game

The children are to work in pairs. One person from each pair comes out. The others sit in front of them with paper and pencil in hand. Those standing give out instructions to the others, telling them to draw their portrait. Eg.

Blue eyes, long nose, only one hand, etc...