

Introduction

The LetsGoEnglish teaching materials are based on the principle of acquiring the foreign language as native speakers do.

Particular attention is given to telling the stories which are again presented as songs on a CD. While singing and listening to this CD, the pupils will be able to memorise the words and phrases a lot more easily.

The chapters are filled with topics that children deal with in everyday life however these are dealt with in a playful way and presented to arouse curiosity. Subject matter that is suitable for children of this age is also included such as numbers, colours, clothes, garden, house and living as well as the child's immediate surroundings. At the same time importance has been attached to incorporating the topics into traditional British stories into our concept.

Most of the topics can be re-enacted in small role-plays so that the children are encouraged to speak primarily on their own. Bring as many things as possible with you for playing and dressing up into the lesson. Things you will need for each lesson are specified in „recommended materials“. This might not always be possible especially at the beginning while you are still getting to know the material. However over time you will be able to equip yourself with the required objects. What ever way you decide to do it, the specified things are just recommendations and that from first hand experience. The flash cards will also help you do the job just as successfully.

A teaching unit should take up to 30 to 40 minutes. It will depend on the age of the children. The duration of most of the lessons is two teaching units. As a mood-setting exercise for the beginning of each lesson, it is recommended to sing the "Hello" song, and for the end of the lesson the "Goodbye" song. While singing the "Goodbye" song, the children could have a stamp put in their books or on the back of the hand or arm. Some children just love collecting the stamps in their books. The stamps are a part of the supplementary teaching materials.

So how does the structure of a lesson look? The story is told to the children in the first teaching unit of each set. The corresponding song is listened to and sung and role plays as well as activities in the book (colouring in, matching up, crafting etc.) are all carried out.

The story of the chapter is then expanded on in the subsequent teaching unit. This is done by practicing words and phrases using the flash cards. This way you will be able to see if a connection to the story has been made or not. Although

the songs themselves are usually learnt and sung off by heart, it is important that the children actually know what they are singing about and that you are able to see if progress is being made in this context.

We have developed supplementary material for some of the lessons such as memory and bingo games as well as crafting materials. These will help you when repeating the stories and improving on the words and phrases. They are also there so that you will be able to approach the contents of the lesson in various ways. Use of these supplementary materials is noted in each of the relevant chapters. The activities in the books such as colouring in, putting in order, matching up, finding the differences etc., are very popular. It is highly recommended to play the CD while the children carry out these activities. They might ask about previous songs. So depending on the time you could take this opportunity to play the previous songs again.

The specified classroom games can be played at any time using the flash cards. A certain competitiveness is evoked by questions such as "Who knows first?" or "Who knows which card is missing?" This definitely makes the lesson more interesting and provides for some excitement.

The same applies to the Orchard Games that simply compliment some of the chapters and are highly recommended. For instance, the Ladybird song is sung in the "numbers" chapter, so it would therefore be fun for the children to get to know "The Game of Ladybirds" by Orchard Games. This game is also about counting points and adding up the number of ladybirds to find the winner. Orchard games are not expensive and can be ordered at www.orchardtoys.com.

The Seasonals are fun to do, too. It is recommended to do these lessons at the same time the kindergarten celebrates these festivals. (Carnival, Easter, Halloween, Christmas).

The "Birthday Song" should be sung each time it's one of the pupils' birthdays or even if they had celebrated it recently. You will find a birthday poster in the supplementary material on which the pupils name can be written right under the Happy Birthday heading. You can take the opportunity to practice the question "How old are you now?" and the answer "I am 4 ...5, 6 ... years old"

Teaching small children is not only fun for the pupils but also for the teacher. We hope you have as much fun using this material as we have had producing it. Your success in the classroom is determined by your input and we at LetsGoEnglish are only too glad to help you on the road to creating this success.

The letsGoEnglish Team