

# A Magical Teacher Makes English Teaching Fun

Awardee: Ng Kit Chee

School: Aldrich Bay Government Primary School

Years of Teaching: 26 years

Teaching Targets: Primary 2 to 6 (English Language)



Students are having fun in the classroom!

## Stimulating teaching methods

A Primary 4 student introduced his round-faced little brother in class: "My brother's face is round. His face is as round as the moon." Expect the unexpected in Ms. Ng's innovative English Language class. Ms. Ng Kit Chee is an English Language teacher who uses her students' own interests as study materials. She regularly asks students to bring their favourite things to school so they can learn to make English sentences. When a student wanted to bring his little brother to school, Ms. Ng agreed. It was a very successful class.

Having shown that anything is possible in Ms. Ng's class, students are now happy to take the initiative. For one class, groups of students made models of shopping centres introducing various features in English one by one in order to create sentences like "There is a \_\_\_\_\_ in the shopping centre." This activity then quickly developed into a heated debate as students critiqued the shopping centres made by others while defending their own creations – and all done in English!

## Surprise enhances involvement

Ms. Ng believes that the class debate encouraged students to form different types of English sentences such as "This is a shopping centre. This is not a swimming centre. Why is there a swimming pool in the shopping centre?" When listening to a recording of the class afterwards, her students were genuinely surprised that they had spoken English spontaneously.

Ms. Ng puts it this way – "When teaching English sentences, you must let students communicate using their familiar and favourite things. This helps them understand more and speak English unconsciously. During a 35-minute class, I like to take 5 minutes to spring some surprises to attract students' attention. For example, I put a clothes hanger on the back of one student just to see how the class will react in English. Of course, my objective is not only to get the students to react in English but also to help them understand the correct syntax and grammar of what they have tried to say. After that, I let them dominate the class for the rest of the period."

## Student care at all levels

Ms. Ng said, "It doesn't matter if mistakes are made when students speak English. The most important thing is that they are encouraged to speak and not be afraid of getting laughed at by other classmates." Clearly, Ms. Ng is an outstanding teacher providing a sense of comfort for her students which facilitates their learning.

Ms. Ng said, "Able students generally know how to benefit from the learning opportunities. However, for less competent students, I need to do more preparation." That is why during recess you will find Ms. Ng talking to students and preparing detailed work sheets based on their learning abilities. She makes sure students know how to complete their exercises step by step and helps them become familiar with English grammar. She even bought colour pencils for her students' writing exercises to help them highlight different sentence structures.

## Recognition leads to enhancement

Once, in order to teach less competent students how to learn and read English poems, Ms. Ng recorded a poem ten times for her students, starting from a single word, a paragraph and then the entire poem. Despite the time and effort spent, Ms. Ng insisted on doing it. She said, "I want to give students the opportunity to create their own success. If they feel they have the ability and confidence, they will progress quickly."

Ms. Ng believes that studying for both Bachelor and Master degrees in education in recent years has helped inspire her teaching. She now has a host of magical teaching tools at her disposal. In addition to using treasure-hunting games to teach prepositions like "in front of", "behind" and "on top of", her tool kit also includes famous English dramas, student dramas, political discourses, questionnaires, and many more.



## My teaching beliefs

"The fundamental meaning of education is to explore the potential of students and give them opportunities to thrive. Each person has his or her unique characteristics, but the important point is how to guide them. For more capable students, I hope I can nurture them to become the future pillars of Hong Kong. For less capable students, we should take even more time and effort to teach and give them a great array of choices." ~ Ms. Ng Kit Chee



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