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**THE USEFUL WAYS OF TEACHING ENGLISH**

Raising adopted children might mean overcoming language barriers. Parents who are immigrants or are raising older, adopted children might have to teach them English as a second language. This can be challenging, especially if the parent has limited English language skills, or the child is quite young. Learning a language is challenging at any age, but thankfully, young children are able to quickly absorb new information. The younger a child starts, the more likely it is he will sound like a native speaker when he is grown. There are many benefits to starting early with songs and rhymes. Studies have shown that children who enjoy music, singing and rhyming on a regular basis tend to learn to speak more easily. They have more words to express themselves. They are more confident and creative. Reading and spelling are easier to learn at school.

Music and rhymes also help us learn to hear a steady beat. Research has shown that children who can keep a steady beat are naturally better readers. So while you’re singing and rhyming be sure to clap along. Give children a chance to feel the beat through tapping, clapping and marching.

Speak English around the home. This is the most effective way for a child to learn English. If it is important for the family to speak its native language at home, set aside a time for speaking only in English. For example, dinnertime could be an English-only time. Model the best English possible, but also show your child how he can learn how to correct himself by using a dictionary and researching language online. Surround your child with native English speakers as much as possible. This might include time at school, but you can also arrange play times or other social events that will allow your child to learn quickly through play. Casual relationships with native speakers will inspire your child to learn quickly, often faster than in a structured school system. Read to your child. Speaking and oral comprehension are important, but learning how to read in English will expand your child's vocabulary and help keep him thinking in English. Because English is not a strictly phonetic language, reading in English is the best way to learn proper spelling. Write with your child. Even if your little one is too small to write, you can make up short stories together and write them down on paper. Stories that are only one or two sentences are all a young child will need to get them thinking creatively and seeing what English looks like on paper. Use tools such as flash cards, word puzzles and other teaching tools, only when your child is fully engaged and enjoying them. Learning ESL can be a lot of work and should always be enjoyable. If a child likes games, try making a family night where you can play games like Pictionary or make up skits from English words. Fairy tales and children's stories can create good introductions into more difficult reading and writing lessons.  Rewriting the endings, reading aloud and acting out scenes from the stories are all good language skill builders.

**Tips and Warnings**

You shouldn’t forget that you must always work to your child's level. Use stories and language that are appropriate for her age group. A teenager isn't going to learn much if she is reading preschooler books or hanging out with young children. Keep him motivated with peers and stories that appeal to her. Tailor your lessons to the kids' ages, language backgrounds and native cultures. Choose materials at their age level and topics of interest to their age group. If the kids like cartoons, sports or collecting, address their interests or hobbies. Whether the students come from one nationality or many, show sensitivity to their cultures, and include their holidays and customs in your lesson plans.

Use a natural approach to teaching English that mirrors how the children are learning their first language. Emphasize listening, then speaking. Teach spoken language before written language. Language acquisition expert Stephen D. Krashen states that some learners may only listen at the beginning of their instruction. Have patience with students who postpone speaking.

Use conversation and games in teaching children. Teach concepts such as apologizing, asking for permission or asking for information. Role-play activities such as going to the dentist or doctor. Depending on their ages, play various memory games, word games or charades.

Use music and games to teach English.Use music and action games to make learning fun. Use songs such as "Itsy, Bitsy Spider," "London Bridge" and "Heads and Shoulders, Knees and Toes" to get students involved physically. Don't forget non-musical games likes "Simon Says." These can allow students who are slow to speak in English to respond nonverbally. Make physical activity, music and fun a daily part of class.

Teach reading and writing in a variety of ways to address all learning styles. Use the sounds of the letters or phonics, children's literature and story-writing. For literature, try traditional stories, nursery rhymes and poetry intended for slightly younger children. Help children to write simple stories of their own and read them to each other. Make sure you combine writing with speaking and listening in other activities. For example, they can write a picnic menu or a shopping list.

Help children learn grammar naturally, as a part of conversations, activities and authentic language. Don't make it a separate subject. Model correct English, and correct students' errors with an accepting attitude. Let children learn English grammar the same way they learned their first language. Keep learning fun so they enjoy English class.

***References:***

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