

Playing vocabulary games



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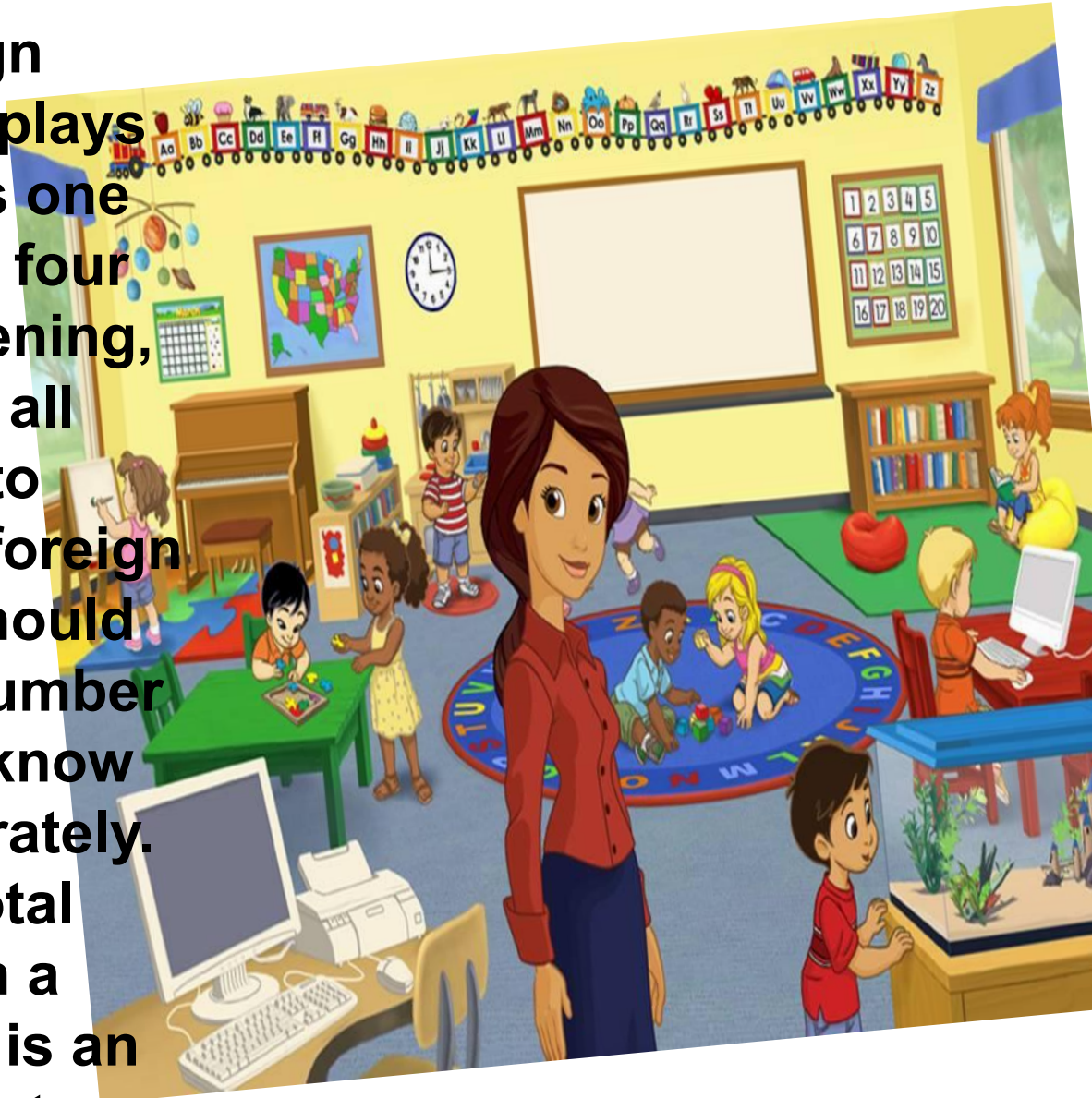
Using games in vocabulary teaching

Using games in teaching vocabulary skills develops habits and skills of dialogue speech, promotes students' speaking initiatives and enhances the natural communicative orientation of the lesson. The authors suppose that while playing games students involuntarily memorize new lexical and grammar material. Thus using games in foreign language teaching is one of the most effective ways that provide students with speaking opportunities and at the same time, motivate them.



In learning a foreign language, vocabulary plays an important role. It is one element that links the four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing all together. In order to communicate well in a foreign language, students should acquire an adequate number of words and should know how to use them accurately.

Vocabulary is the total number of words in a language. Vocabulary is an important part to master English well.



There are essential steps of learning

- Having source for encountering new words;
- Getting a clear image for the form of new words;
- Learning the meaning of new words;
- Making a strong memory connection between the form of the meaning



- **To increase the vocabulary we need media to be used.**
- **One of them is game. The definition of game is an activity that you do to have some fun. Games can make the students more focus in learning, because they do not feel that they are forced to learn. Games can lower anxiety, thus making the acquisition of input more likely. They are highly motivating and entertaining, and they can give shy students more opportunity to express their opinion and feelings.**



Games



- **Apple Pass.**
- **Have all students sit in a circle. Use a fake apple and toss it to one student. But you must say one English word as you pass. The student then throws to another student and says a different English word. If the student you threw it to drops it, he/she is out. And the game keeps going until you have one winner. It can be played with different categories, such as Food, Animals, Etc. My students love it!**



Backs to the Board Game.

This one is good for higher level kids. Make two teams and stand one student from each team in front of the board, facing away from it. Write a word or draw a picture on the board (e.g. "hamburger") and the students have to explain that word to their team member (e.g. you can buy it in McDonalds, it's got cheese and ketchup in it). The first student out of the two standing in front of the board to guess the word wins a point for his/her team.



I spy.

Teacher says "I spy with my little eye something that begins with B". Students try to guess the object (e.g. "book"). Colors are a good alternative for younger ("... my little eye something that is red").



Our own experiences



In conclusion we would like to note that games are effective activities as a technique for vocabulary revision. Students also prefer games and puzzles to other activities. Games motivate and entertain students but also help them learn in a way which aids the retention and retrieval of the material. Recently, using games has become a popular technique exercised by many educators in the classrooms and recommended



Thank you for attention

