YOUNG AND OLDER LEARNERS: SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

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AGENDA

Who are children?

How do children learn their first language?
What does the child do to learn a language?
What does the mother (adult) do to support her child learn a language?
What condition that facilitates language learning?
Kate, a 15-month old baby, was having tea with her mum when suddenly she stared at something in the corner.

Kate: /gae/
Mum: what can you see?
Kate: /gae/
Mum: the ball? Where’s the ball?
Kate: (menunjuk bola di sudut ruang)
Mum: yes, over there

What does a child do to learn a language?

- Tries to communicate verbally and non-verbally
- Uses her natural ability to understand what’s happening
- Uses feedback from her parents to confirm that her prediction is correct
- Observes her parents’ facial expressions to get clues
- Imitates words used by adults
- Combines her words and something that has been mentioned by her parents
- Uses gestures to support her effort to communicate
What does the mother (adult) do to support her child learn a language?

- Shows interest in the child’s effort to communicate; and responds to the child as if the child’s words were meaningful
- Talks to the child about things they like
- Adapts her talking style to the child’s language level, e.g. babyish talk
- Tries to understand things from the child’s perspectives
- Uses context to understand what the child is trying to communicate
  - Confirms that her interpretation is correct
  - Confirms the meanings communicated by the child
    - Adds or clarifies meaning
What condition that facilitates language learning?

- Plenty of exposure
- Lots of repetition and routine
- Friendly environment
- No compulsion of communication—based on desire
- Unlimited time
- Parent and child do things together
In group, match the characteristics to a suitable column (children, adolescents, or adults)
Good Teachers who know the learners' characteristics need

- to provide a variety of resources for the students to get information from
- to plan a range of activities for a given of time
- to be flexible to move on the next activity when the students are getting bored
What should a classroom for young learners look like?

- The classroom should be: bright and colorful, with windows for the children to see things out of, with enough room for different activities to be taking place
- Friendly environment
What the teacher can do with the young learners' characteristics (love discovering things - respond well to being asked to use their imagination?)

- In games;
- in physical movement; or
- in songs

- In puzzle-like activities;
- in making things;
- in drawing things;
SEE YOU ALL NEXT WEEK

DON'T FORGET

YOUR LEARNING JOURNAL