

MULTIPLE TECHNIQUES FOR LANGUAGE ACQUISITION AND HOW PUPPETS CAN HELP

Leonard Meachim
Kalloni Primary School, Lesvos

Agapios Oikonomidis
School Advisor of English, North Aegean



- Enable young learners to show comprehension and acquisition non-verbally
- Maximise student participation and attention
- Ensure a non-threatening learning environment with minimal student stress
- Prevent repetition and recycling from becoming tedious through a wide variety of enjoyable activities
- Encourage expected classroom conduct

ESTABLISH RAPPORT



PUPPETS

gain students' attention
 encourage shy students
 are not intimidating
 have emotional appeal

can become students' friends
 generate interest and enthusiasm
 provide variety of focus, placing less on the teacher

STUDENTS & TEACHERS

may call upon individual puppets to participate through the use of a chant or song associated with each one



Hand-held teaching assistants at Kalloni

A team of hand puppets, each with their own character and role, associated with different techniques, who can be called on in turn to change the mood and pace within a lesson, and help in the presentation of new language and the introduction of new activities.

SWEEP - Dialogue & Communication in English

- friendly dog
- squeaky bark interpreted by teacher
- upset by use of Greek, which he doesn't understand
- routinely talks to students towards the start of the lesson
- helps with songs and chants by barking rhythmically
- enjoys guessing games

SOOTY - Listening & Concentration

- shy bear
- whispers in teacher's ear & teacher speaks
- elicits quiet concentration & listening
- hates loud noise
- loves to send whispered messages
- encourages a suitable atmosphere for picture books
- demonstrates formation of letters with his magic wand

ALI BABA - Listening & Repeating

- genial genie
- leads students in repeating words, making drilling enjoyable
- body language establishes level of noise
- encourages enthusiasm & participation

Contact Len at len2mea@gmail.com, Agapios at agapiosoik@gmail.com

Puppets designed by Harry Corbett and Express Publishing. Some of the techniques are taken from TPR and TPRS. Thanks to the staff and students at Kalloni Primary School.

ASSESS COMPREHENSION NON-VERBALLY

STUDENTS

indicate comprehension by
 pointing to or raising objects or pictures
 physical activity or miming
 using hands to make own signs or those borrowed from sign languages
 shaking or nodding head for Yes/No answers

TEACHERS

should not expect individuals to produce target language before they feel ready
 use action rhymes and songs

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

PUPPETS

can signal the start or end of the lesson, new activities

can demonstrate activity or games through example, avoiding need for teacher's instructions

may refuse to participate in activities if expected conditions are not met

STUDENTS

can learn social & linguistic skill of saying "sorry" to puppets

TEACHERS

may be regarded as less of the disciplinarian, more the students' ally in keeping their puppet friends happy through expected behaviour