

Role-play in the Elementary School Classroom - From Textbook to Free Role-play

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Abstract:

It can be hard to get students to speak English.. Students may memorize something but not understand it. Free role-play where students don't know what their partner (or another group member) is going to say requires students to be listening and then to formulate a response. But how can this be done in the elementary classroom? In this workshop 'role-play' will be defined and how it can help EFL students with speaking English. Elementary public school textbook role-play sessions will be looked at and how they can be used in the classroom without total chaos, and how they can be extended. The use of other prewritten scripts, student created scripts, and doing unscripted role-play will also be looked at and some tips on how to scaffold these in the classroom. During the workshop participants will briefly experience using some different types of role-play methods (individually with puppets, in pairs with and without puppets, and in small groups) to give a feel for these types of activities. These types of role-play may be used in regular classrooms, camps and afterschool classes. Participants will hopefully have the opportunity to share their ideas and experiences with others during the session. The aim of this presentation is to have participants feel more confident in implementing more role-play in their classroom and to have some tools to develop students speaking English skills through role-play.

Bio:

Jennifer is a primary school trained teacher from New Zealand. In New Zealand she mostly taught in the junior school. She first taught in Jeollanamdo, Korea in 2008 and then to Daejeon in 2009 where she continues to teach at Elementary public schools. Jennifer enjoys interacting with her students and teaching. Even though it is difficult at times to have conversations with all students due to the lack of common language she is rewarded by their enthusiasm and desire to communicate.