

" Grammar is a concept which children do not understand until they are about **ten** years old."

Piaget



Can we actually **teach grammar** to young learners?

"Children see a foreign language from the **inside...**"

Cameron 2001


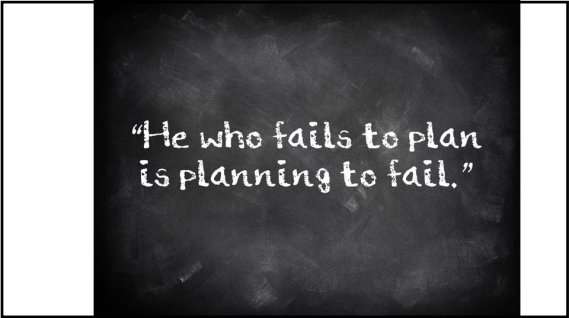


Children are **not capable yet** of abstract thinking.

This means they have **trouble understanding** grammar explanations.

Rather than explaining rules to the children teach it to them **through meaningful and engaging contexts**.





**The M&Ms of Teaching Grammar to Young Learners**

M\_\_\_\_\_ new language -  
meaningful context.

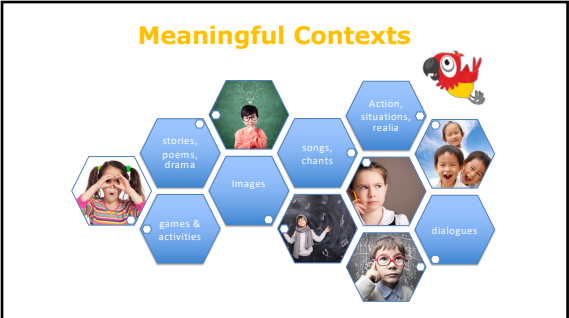
M\_\_\_\_\_ language in a  
multisensory & memorable  
way.

M\_\_\_\_\_ the language their  
own using motivating  
activities.

University of Nottingham ITE Team



Meeting new  
language in a  
meaningful  
context.





" **Meaning** comes **first**. If children do not understand it, they will not learn it."

*Adapted from Cameron (2002:36)*





'The most important single factor influencing learning is **what the learner already knows**. Ascertain this and teach him accordingly.'

Ausubel (1968)

4 Listen, Read and sing. 128

**Celebrate!**

We went to a concert.  
Everyone was there!  
We danced to very, very, very  
and watched a parade.

But best of all,  
we danced to music,  
wonderful music,  
we danced to music  
all day long.

We danced to music,  
wonderful music,  
we danced to music  
all day long.

Did you like the food?  
Yes, I loved the food.  
Did you dress up?  
Yes, I went as a frog.

Did you like the costumes?  
Yes, I loved the costumes.  
Did you see my mask?  
Yes, we saw some masks.


128

Highlight meaningful  
**chunks**



Manipulating  
language in a  
multisensory &  
memorable  
way.

### Multi-sensory input



### GRAMMAR TR: B27

Did you **watch** the parade? Yes, I **watched** the parade.  
Did you **dance** at the party? Yes, I **danced** at the party.

**EXERCISE 10-11**  
Did you watch the parade? Yes, I watched the parade.  
Did you dance at the party? Yes, I danced at the party.

**Read and write.** Complete the sentences. Use these words.  
dress up like listen play watch

Yesterday ...  
1. I stressed up in my favourite costume. I was a superhero!  
2. The parade was great. We \_\_\_\_\_ to music from many countries.  
3. I \_\_\_\_\_ the food and the dancing. It was fun!  
4. After dinner, all the children \_\_\_\_\_ games.  
5. At night, we \_\_\_\_\_ the fireworks. They were incredible!

### Beep Dictation

**Read and write.** Complete the sentences. Use these words.  
dress up like listen play watch

Yesterday ...  
1. I stressed up in my favourite costume. I was a superhero!  
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### Silly Sentences



She played the drum.

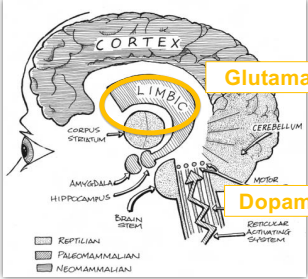
She played music.

They listened to music.

### Use emotions

**1 Listen and say.**  
**2 Listen. Point and say.**  
**3 Work with a partner. Ask and answer.**

Look, worried, angry, hungry, thirsty, tired, surprised, silly



Glutamate

Dopamine

1 Listen and read. 10-11

2 Listen and say. 10-11

People all over the world have special celebrations. They take time to celebrate the past, meet family and friends, eat food, and have fun.

1 costumes

2 feast

3 fireworks

4 lanterns

5 parade

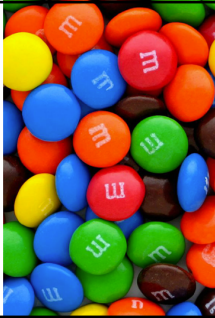
GRAMMAR 10-11

Did you .....?  
Yes, I .....

If the parade  
at the party.

hang your name  
hang your name

Provide **plenty of opportunities to play** with the language



Making the language their own using motivating activities.

Body grammar

2 What about you? Think of a celebration. Write true sentences. Use these words.

celebrate dance like listen play watch

1 You celebrated on birthdays.

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

5 \_\_\_\_\_

6 \_\_\_\_\_

3 Work with a friend. Ask questions about your celebration.

Did you play games at the party?

Yes, we played games. It was fun.

Body grammar

yesterday

we

my birthday

celebrated

2 What about you? Think of a celebration. Write true sentences. Use these words.

celebrate dance like listen play watch

1 You celebrated on birthdays.

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

5 \_\_\_\_\_

6 \_\_\_\_\_

3 Work with a friend. Ask questions about your celebration.

Did you play games at the party?

Yes, we played games. It was fun.







**Teachers** do not create  
learning, **learners** create  
learning...

*William (2010)*



**Thank you for your active  
participation ☺**

**References**

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