

LANGUAGE SUMMER CAMPS AS AN EFFECTIVE WAY OF THE COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE FORMATION

The article features one of the innovative approaches to ensure the quality of teaching English and realization of extracurricular work known as language summer camps. These camps are called to encourage students practice language skills acquired during the school year [1]. In the camps children are focused on fully engaging with the language in our cultural settings and the natural outdoor environment.

The language camps are aimed to increase the level of English, to show the children another style of teaching different from that of a common school one where the emphasis is put on practical training and knowledge that can be applied later in other spheres. Language summer camps implement the principle of succession and continuity, perform the compensative function referred to school, and give an opportunity not only to rest, to release physical and psychical tension of the school year, but create new terms for enriching and realization of their social experience. Through this activity children substantially widen their outlook and learn a lot. Practice provides the development of all kinds of language skills in a fun way, helps children to build self-confidence, make new and lasting friendships, develop understanding and appreciation of different cultures and helps to strengthen young individuals moral character.

The goals of a language camp are:

- to popularize the study of English;
- the development of the creative potential of every child;
- to instill the communication need in knowledge of other countries and peoples.

The tasks of a language camp are:

- to help children acquire the necessary language skills;
- to bridge the "language barrier";
- to improve spoken language;
- to combine learning with exciting rest;
- to increase the motivation of further foreign language improvement.

The preparation for the summer language camp included seminars and trainings for all the staff involved. English teachers attended seminars organized at Zhytomyr State University by the Department of English language teaching methods in preschool and primary education (Head - Associate Professor, Candidate of Science Inna Samoylyukevych) and the educational-methodical workshop of the Research Institute of Foreign Languages (Head - Professor, Candidate of Science Larysa Kalinina).

At the meetings of methodological associations during the school year the English teachers worked on the creation of projects aimed at teaching love for their homeland - the city they live in, people, local traditions, history of their country. The materials of educational and methodological support were aimed to promote understanding of the importance of the ability to cooperate and communicate with representatives of other countries, to provide solid theoretical foundation together with actual practice

In the frames of the project «CACTUS», supported by the American Councils, eight 10th formers have received the necessary training and knowledge to work as volunteers in the language camp during the one-day practical seminar «Practice CACTUS». The volunteers' school has been organized to prepare future participants of summer language camp. The practice of volunteering as a form of the career guidance is a powerful basis for the balanced, conscious choice of future profession. Our task is to create and sustain a network of active open-minded young people, who can change Ukraine through cooperation.

Among the educational areas the most relevant today are the patriotic, civic education as fundamental ones that meet both urgent needs and challenges of today and lay the foundation for the formation of consciousness of present and future generations. Today we need new approaches and new ways to promote patriotism as a feeling and as a basis of personality. Foreign language is an extremely powerful tool for the implementation of the principle of multiculturalism, which involves the integration of the Ukrainian culture in the European and global space, promotes popularization of the Ukrainian culture, history, traditions [3].

The article provides with a general structure for a fourteen-day full time camp. The agenda of the language camp includes activities in the following areas:

- national-patriotic education;
- social studies;
- arts and crafts;
- ecological awareness;
- sports.

We offer a thematic model of organization and project work with students of the secondary school called «Kids in Wonderland». The whole system is intended for the 5th grade students (level A2). The stages of the project work are given in the article.

The structure of work in the language camp «Kids in Wonderland» is presented by the virtual tour to Wonderland. The cartoon characters Chip and Dale, true friends and saviors (two teams), are sent to investigate Wonderland visiting real museums, theaters, cinemas, creating their own theatrical and artistic studies, preparing flash mobs, sports competitions and quests. Traveling around Wonderland, the units "Chip" and "Dale" explore the unknown country and make up the map of Terra incognita. Each stage of the journey is another part of the puzzle in the map of Wonderland, every puzzle piece is the realization of the project, designed to create a complete picture of our homeland. The best part is, learning English through arts and crafts, song or a game outside the classroom doesn't even feel like learning. The program provides an opportunity for increased language exposure through a variety of fun and engaging indoor and outdoor activities. Spontaneous interactions and supportive games allow children to build their foreign language vocabularies the way a native speaker does.

The material for the summer language camp was compiled from a variety of sources: Learn English Kids (British Council), Macmillan Life Skills Resources and school English teachers' own classes' plans. Each plan is designed for 45-60 minutes of class time with students who have pre-intermediate level of English. Additionally, there is some general information about the planning process: important points to remember; parental consent forms; camp schedules and materials lists; ideas for group activities and teambuilding.

The results of the students' work in art-classes, different activities, during excursions are presented in the form of a:

- poster
- collage
- survey results
- booklet
- slide film
- multimedia presentation
- magazine (including electronic)
- collection (recipes, photos)
- collection of recommendations
- postcard.

We strive to inspire the youth for action, because only those who act achieve results. We want to show that everything is possible. We believe English to be a universal language, which is a perfect tool to reach broader audiences. In their turn summer language camps are meant to make the learning environment less artificial, to focus on fully engaging with the language in our cultural settings and the natural outdoor environment, to bring English to life in Ukraine.

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