

Learning and having fun with technology

Students' learning potential increases when attitudes are positive and motivation runs high. My presentation will be devoted to some teaching techniques and activities that affect motivation and make attitudes more positive. Nowadays various effective language teaching strategies, including applying technology in class, can encourage students to be more positive towards the foreign language they are learning. Students' (including younger learners') interest in modern technology, especially computers, is one of the reasons for studying English with more enthusiasm, when the teacher uses it at the lessons. In addition to the variety of methods the use of computer technology in the classroom is particularly beneficial when combined with such activity as project making. Ukrainian teachers widely use alternative textbooks by Longman, Express publishing, McMillan, however, they need adaptation to Ukrainian reality and some cultural background. Although there are many wonderful books to choose from, the example presented here is based on the Excellent I (Longman) and the project work with computer technologies, which we have successfully used at the lessons in the 2nd grade of the English specialized school.

The textbook covers such items of school curriculum as 'Appearance', 'Food' etc. The main characters of the book including children, adults and even pets (a parrot and a cat) go from activity to activity together with the students, thus making the experience more exciting and helping the learners to more easily memorize the material. The heroes' wonderful traveling from one stage of learning to another is accompanied with CD recording of teaching textual material and pieces of entertaining activities like songs, poems, jokes etc. However, it's still not enough for a creative teacher and highly motivated students. The textbook gives us a framework or an anchor on which to base our interpretation and eventual expansion of meaning of the actions to be preformed and material to be learned. Therefore, we decided to start project work in order to motivate our students.