

Share Convention Conference 2023

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**“I can hear with my little ear
young learners in the
pronunciation class.”**

Mgter. Stella Palavecino

‘I can hear with my little ear young learners in the pronunciation class’

A demonstration on the effect of Emo-pron stories, discovering new sounds

Pronunciation is one of the building blocks of learning languages (Walker, Low & Setter, 2021). So, if it is so vital, where is it in Young Learners’ (YL) classes? Some approaches to language learning mostly rely on children’s memory for words, structures, etc. A multisensory teaching of pronunciation may come to the rescue of those children whose memory capacity may still be limited or developing, since children—as we all know—enjoy copying and engaging in language play (Crystal, 2001).



Some teachers may find Phonics compatible with the way children learn. However, Phonics can be problematic for non-native speakers of English. The major challenge for EFL learners is that they need to acquire the targeted sounds before applying them. For example, a Spanish speaker will make no distinction between V and B. So >Very< will be >Berry<. That is the missing link. How can a child develop phonological awareness to complement reading and writing if they say Van for Ban or Very for Berry?

This presentation will introduce a new teaching tool that promotes the natural acquisition of sounds. Hence *Emopron stories*, unlike literature, introduce a conflict that is only solved by noticing and experimenting with a new targeted sound that is non-existent in the mother tongue. Children will remember things associated with laughter, fantasy characters, memorable songs, fun, and emotions. Thus, practice through a more Phonics-based approach is facilitated when children can comprehend and produce the sound.

These practical ideas and lesson plans will make young learners focus on real EFL needs that favour the way children learn. "The students' job is to learn the language. The teacher job is to learn the students" (Underhill, 2020).

References

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