35 Teaching young learners and teenagers

A Warm-up

1 What experience do you have of the following age groups? Tick the relevant boxes.

	2–6 years old	7–12 years old	13–16 years old
I have/had children that age			
I've got family that age (e.g. cousins/siblings)			
I've taught them a lot			
I've taught them a little			
I've worked with them in a non-teaching position a lot			
I've worked with them in a non-teaching position a little			
None			

2 Compare your experiences with these age groups to those of your partners. How do you think you would feel about teaching English to each of these age groups?

B Characteristics of different age groups

Your trainer will allocate you to one of the following age groups:

- Very young learners (2–6 years old)
- Young learners (7–12 years old)
- Teenagers (13–16 years old)

For your age group, answer the following questions with your partners.

- What are the characteristics of this age group? What can they do? What can't they do?
- EITHER What kind of activities work well with them? What don't work?
  OR Find one activity for this age group which you could share with your fellow trainees.
- What can go wrong in the lessons? What can you do to prevent/resolve these issues?

Summarize what you learn in a method of your choice, for example as a poster, a document, or a presentation. Don't forget to include your sources.

Be prepared to tell others about your research.

C Sharing projects

Share what you learned with trainees from a different group. What are two key differences between each age group?

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D Project-based lessons

Today's session was an example of a project-based lesson. Answer the following questions with a partner.

1 What are the possible benefits and drawbacks of using project-based lessons?
2 How did your trainer set up and run the session to make the project as successful as possible? Consider aims, support, roles, and sharing projects.
3 What age groups do you think would benefit from project-based lessons?
4 What topics could work well as projects?

KEY WORDS FOR TEACHERS

Check you know the meanings of these terms.

- *very young learners (VYL)*
- *young learners (YL)*
- *project-based lessons*
- *routines*

REFLECTION

1 How might the following areas be different when working with different age groups:
   - activity set-up?
   - lesson content?
   - classroom management?
   - lesson types?

   What other areas do you think might be different?

2 Think back to the warm-up. Now that you have found out more about working with different age groups, how do you think you would feel about teaching English to each of them?

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