



Tikrit University

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English Department

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Why_ do_ we_ teach_ speaking_ skill?

In the push to teach students reading and writing, it's easy to forget about speaking! This lesson gives students ideas for teaching speaking skills, including explaining how spoken language works and what you can do to support it.

In today's teaching climate, it's easy to forget the importance of oral language, or speaking and listening skills. With all the focus on reading and writing, sometimes teachers neglect this more basic aspect of language! Yet students need to learn speaking skills and have opportunities to practice making their voices heard in a safe and constructive environment. Speaking skills are important because

1-Skilled speakers can effectively present their own points of view

2-Skilled speakers are often better readers and writers

3-Skilled speakers are more confident participants in a variety of .contexts - both in and out of school

4-Skilled speakers are able to advocate for themselves and get their .academic and emotional needs met

Which Skills Matter?

One of the reasons teachers might feel hesitant about teaching speaking skills is that it can feel overwhelming. Oral language is complex, and in order to teach it properly, we need to deconstruct it into separate skills. The following skills are important to consider when working on speech with students:

Mechanical Skills

Students need to learn how to project, or speak at the right volume for their audience to hear them. They need to learn how to use intonation to express mood and how to pronounce words properly. They must also learn how to pace their spoken language so that they are neither too .fast nor too slow to be understood

Organizational Skills

Just as students must learn to organize their writing, they must learn how to organize, or structure in a meaningful way, their oral language. This means talking in logical sequence, stating thoughts in an order that makes sense, and making sure the spoken word is relevant to the topic of conversation

Activities To Promote Speaking:

Role Play

Simulations

Information Gap

Brainstorming

Picture Narrating

Picture Describing Speaking skill is one of the four essential language skills, along with listening, reading, and writing. Developing speaking skills is crucial for effective communication in both personal and professional contexts. Here are some key aspects of speaking skill development:

Pronunciation: Clear and accurate pronunciation is essential for .1 effective communication. Practice pronunciation of individual sounds, word stress, intonation patterns, and sentence rhythm to improve overall intelligibility.

Vocabulary: Building a diverse vocabulary enhances the quality .2 and fluency of speech. Encourage active vocabulary acquisition through reading, listening, and speaking activities. Practice using new words in context to reinforce understanding and retention.

Grammar: While fluency is important, speaking with grammatical .3 accuracy also contributes to effective communication. Provide

opportunities for practicing grammar structures in meaningful contexts and correct errors as they arise.

Fluency: Fluency refers to the ability to speak smoothly and confidently without hesitation. Encourage fluency development through regular speaking practice, such as role-plays, discussions, debates, and presentations.

Listening Skills: Listening skills are closely connected to speaking skills. Encourage active listening by providing opportunities for students to listen to and respond to spoken language. Practice activities such as listening comprehension exercises, dialogues, and storytelling.

Confidence Building: Building students' confidence in their speaking abilities is essential for overcoming anxiety and inhibitions. Create a supportive and non-judgmental learning environment where students feel comfortable expressing themselves and taking risks in speaking.

Authentic Communication: Provide opportunities for authentic communication by simulating real-life speaking situations. Encourage students to engage in meaningful conversations, share personal experiences, express opinions, and negotiate meaning with others.

Interactive Activities: Incorporate interactive speaking activities that promote active participation and engagement. Pair and group work activities, role-plays, debates, and information gap exercises encourage students to interact with each other and practice speaking in various contexts.

Feedback and Correction: Provide constructive feedback on students' speaking performance to help them identify areas for improvement. Offer specific praise for strengths and provide gentle correction for errors. Encourage self-assessment and reflection to promote continuous improvement.

Cultural Awareness: Develop students' cultural awareness and sensitivity to help them navigate cross-cultural communication successfully. Discuss cultural differences in communication norms, etiquette, and nonverbal cues to help students adapt their speaking behavior in different cultural contexts. .10

By focusing on these aspects of speaking skill development, language learners can become more confident, fluent, and effective communicators in English and other languages.