



Introduction to our  
academic approach



# Our founding Pedagogy



**Our aim is to create an educational pedagogy for teaching English through fun activities, positive learning experiences and and lasting memories.**

**We give the students an opportunity to practice and use English through play-based learning for the younger students and activity-based learning for the older students involving several key elements;**

- A high number of volunteers ensuring each student gets individual attention
- Integrating life skills as a secondary learning goal
- Providing world knowledge and cultural awareness through in part our volunteers from all over the world and in part the learning topics for different lessons
- Partnerships that provide unique opportunities the kids would otherwise not have access to

# Content

1. Pedagogical Principles
2. Curriculum Design
3. Activity Examples
4. Resources and Materials
5. Partnerships
6. Volunteer involvement
7. Assessment and Feedback



# 1. Pedagogical Principles;

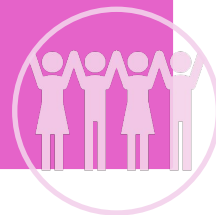
- **Individual Attention:** we aim at one lap pr. child for personalized learning.
- **Differentiated Instruction:** Tailoring activities to meet the varied proficiency levels of students.

## Student-Centered Learning



- **Active Learning:** Engage students through role-playing, simulations, and interactive games.
- **Project-Based Learning:** Encourage students to work on projects that require them to use English in real-life scenarios.
- **Reciprocity:** Letting the students grow by learning together with the volunteers

## Interactive and Experiential Learning



- **Global Citizenship:** Introduce students to diverse cultures and global issues.
- **Cultural Exchange:** Encourage sharing of cultural stories, traditions, and customs.

## Cultural and World Awareness



# 2. Curriculum design



We develop a curriculum based on our pedagogical principles. For each lesson we have a lesson plan. The lesson plan takes notice of the specific group of children, the volunteers participating and other opportunities that presents. That can be seasonal, new partners, special events etc.

Each session is designed to inspire interactive learning. Thus all sessions will have activities for the children to engage in. However, each activity will have clear learning goals developing the children's ability to speak English.

Further each session will be modelled to give the children agency by providing choice. Having the option for variation also gives the volunteer teachers opportunity to catch the attention of all the kids even though they may have different interests, form and academic level.

As such our curriculum design aspires to ensure that each session becomes a positive experience for each child, nurtures the idea that learning can be fun while stimulating their academic skills and ability to understand and speak English.

**open arms**

<b>Lesson plan; Primary 1</b>	
Topic Theme: <u>Colours/food/life cycle</u>	Activity Title: <u>Hungry Caterpillar</u>
Organisation: <u>Library/Tables in semi circle.</u>	
Preparation: <u>Set up folders/</u>	
Lesson plan: 1. Read the story of the hungry caterpillar 2. Model and complete the sequencing activity Optional: 3. Make stick puppets 4. Playdough 5. Lace cards 6. Butterfly sticking/ <u>decorating</u>	
Learning intention for the main activity: To be able to listen to a story, <u>choose activity</u> and copy a few English words.	
Key Questions: How many apples? How many oranges?	Key Vocabulary: Butterfly Caterpillar Days of the week Numbers to 10 <u>Colours</u>
Resources: Hungry Caterpillar book <a href="#">Hungry caterpillar puppets</a> <a href="#">Sequencing activity</a>	

**open arms**

<b>Early Years Adult Input Plan</b>	
Topic Theme: <u>All about me</u>	Activity Title: <u>Writing a greeting card.</u>
Date: <u>Tuesday</u>	Organisation: <u>Everyone in the canteen for the whole session</u>
Lesson Plan: 6.00-6.10 Welcome and greet the children giving out stickers for their names. Check their homework and stick in the new homework for this week. Play the hello song <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plmsE1mhao&amp;list=PLXFPXwHGmpTR-ejSeqE7fiiDoxIVthi&amp;index=6">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plmsE1mhao&amp;list=PLXFPXwHGmpTR-ejSeqE7fiiDoxIVthi&amp;index=6</a> 6.10 circle time giving out the cards	
5 year olds	7 year old boys 6/7 year old girls
Children to make their own cards for the children in America. Will have a format to follow. Hello my name is...I am ...years old. I like...	
Children to decorate with picture of themselves/pictures/glitter pens etc. After the card decorating they can have some time to play games; snakes and ladders/ <a href="#">jig saws</a> /playdough	
6.50-6.55 come to the circle with the song for tidy up <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epPa7wzGjEa&amp;list=PLXFPXwHGmpTR-ejSeqE7fiiDoxIVthi&amp;index=16&amp;tDs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epPa7wzGjEa&amp;list=PLXFPXwHGmpTR-ejSeqE7fiiDoxIVthi&amp;index=16&amp;tDs</a> 6.55-7.00 Farewell song	
Learning intention for main activity To make Halloween crafts and play games.	
Key Questions: Can you write your name in English? How old are you? What colour <u>hair</u> do you have?	Key Vocabulary: name, age, hair, brown, black.
Resources: Adult Role(s): Katy to lead the singing/circle time 5 Year olds: Barbara/Sally/Julie/Hannah Girls <a href="#">Gretchup</a> /Maya/ina Boys Mike/Logan	
Observations/Evaluations	

# 3. Activities examples



## Language and skill integration

- **Listening and speaking:** Stories, alphabet, simple sentences
- **Reading and writing:** Phonics, sentence construction and knowledge of simple grammar



## Life skills

- **Communication:** speaking and active listening exercises.
- **Critical Thinking:** Problem-solving activities, puzzles, and strategic games.
- **Collaboration:** Group projects, team sports, cooking and cooperative learning activities.



## World knowledge

- **Geography:** Map activities, country and cultural festivals.
- **History and Society:** links to relevant history stores, festivals , and discussions on social issues.
- **Science and Technology:** Simple experiments, tech workshops, and science fairs.

# 4. Resources and materials

To inspire high quality teaching we work with the very best resources and materials:

- Tablets to support teaching digitally
- License to Twinkl which support our education of the younger kids with a certified learning program and access to exercises and materials
- As our kids grow older we will look for similar resources to inspire the older kids when relevant
- Games to give a pause in the teaching but also a chance for the kids to use their English if they want to play as the majority of our volunteers do not speak Korean
- Arts and crafts supplies
- Cooking supplies



# 5. Partnerships;

Open Arms works with multiple partners who provides exceptional opportunity for the children's learning experience.

Several sessions during the year are planned in partnership with our great partner organizations.

We are continuously looking to expand our range of partnering organizations.

- Visits the programs with special events
- Korea Legacy provides food for the elderly in Korea
- Visiting our programs gives the kids a chance to give back to the community while enjoying fun cooking activities

Korea Legacy



- Help organise special events for our kids to learn in new ways practicing their English while enjoying physical training and develop arts

SIWA



- Visits the programs regularly with their therapy dogs as guest teachers
- An opportunity for the kids to meet the animals, learn about dogs and rescue services and do exercises around and with the dogs

Fur all dogs



- Host sessions for our kids on a regular basis
- Gives the kids a chance to enjoy a different state of the art learning environment
- Older students from SFS serves as guest teachers
- Also provides space for special events

Seoul Foreign School



- Hosts sessions for our kids on a regular basis
- Gives kids a chance to enjoy a different learning environment
- Is part of our christmas drive providing a special and personalized christmas present for all of our children

Dulwich College





# 6. Volunteer involvement



Our program volunteers are the heart and soul of our organisation. Each week or each month our volunteer plan and run the sessions giving the children memories to remember.

## **Roles and responsibilities:**

- Each program has a coordinator who plans the practical side of the session with the volunteers connected to that program.
- Our educational director plans the curriculum for the sessions together with the coordinator making sure the academic level and progression is continuously up to par. Each session will have a lesson plan stating the activities and goals of each session.
- Some sessions will be led by volunteers if they have special knowledge they want to share. It can be a presentation of their country or culture, it can be their professional knowledge or hobbies. Here the children learn about everything from Eid to Saint Patricks day, get to try food from all over the world and get a sneak peak into countries they may want to visit someday.

## **Onboarding and training:**

- We have an onboarding process where the volunteers are introduced to our values and principles
- We are working to have an online training module for onboarding
- 2 times a year we have volunteer training workshops educating our volunteers on our academic approach, child protection and cultural sensitivity

# 7. Assessment and feedback



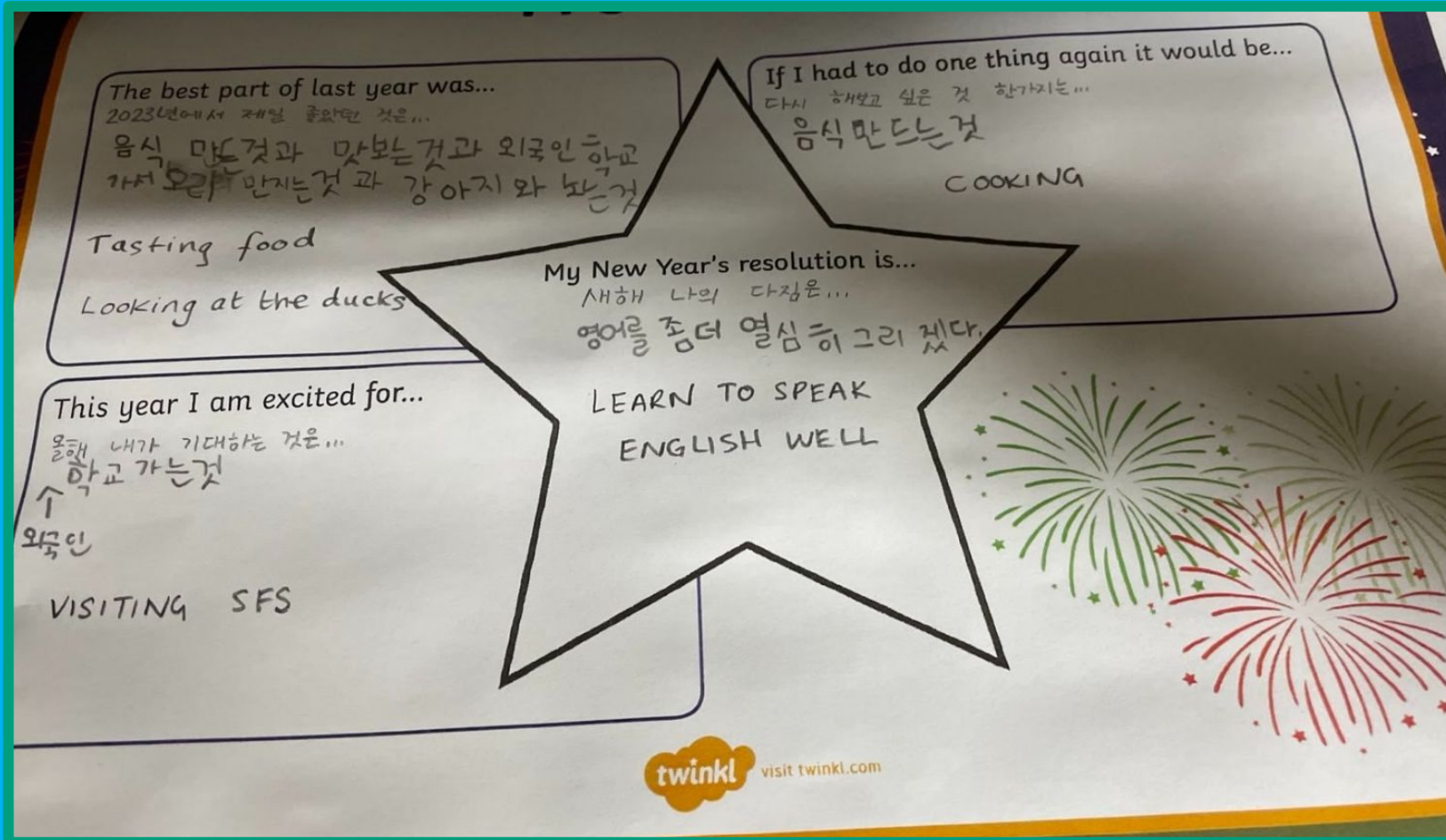
Open Arms programs are all about giving the children positive learning experiences, a chance to practice the English they learn at school and a positive self-image. Combined with our focus on life skills and global understanding our teaching is not a formal English teaching program and as such we do not have exams and tests.

However, we are of course interested in understanding how the children are developing and how we can develop and improve our programs accordingly.

We work with assessment and feedback in the following way:

1. In November we conduct a session with the children where they can give feedback on their experiences with Open Arms and what they could wish for happened in the coming year
2. We are working on establishing an advisory board of young people who themselves have lived at welfare centers to help us with advice on program content and the different dilemmas we face working with the children
3. As the children grow older it might be an option to look into more formal testing providing them relevant certificates but this is for discussions as we develop our senior programs.

Doing this we get a good understanding of our children as well as the opportunities we have to continue to develop our programs



New years resolution by one of our kids 2024