

Tokyo JALT TYL Mainstream Primary School English: Challenges and Innovations



Sponsored by: JALT Tokyo Chapter
and Teaching Younger Learners SIG

When: Sunday, October 24th

Time: 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Where: On Zoom

Price: Free of charge

JALT membership is not necessary to attend this exciting event. We welcome any and all teachers of younger learners.

Please use this form to request a link to the event:

<https://forms.gle/XgTos7faSxpbE1uc7>

Kim Takeda

Adapting and developing teaching strategies to meet the challenges and innovations of teaching English in Japan



Back in 1988, I was one of the 848 participants selected to become an Assistant Language (English) Teacher in the second year of the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme. Having taught elementary school for 8 years in Los Angeles, I felt well-prepared and ready to teach English to my new students. Well, much to my surprise, English education in Japan was not exactly what I expected. I had to quickly adjust and revise my teaching strategies to best meet the needs of my students and the Japanese school system.

Five prefectures, 50 plus schools, and 33 years later, it's been interesting watching how English education in Japan has evolved. I think most of the changes have been extremely positive, but change also brings about new challenges. So, what can teachers of English do to level up their game and prepare themselves for these challenges and innovations? In this presentation, let's take a look at some of the biggest challenges and innovations in English education in Japan today. I will be sharing some tips and ideas about how any teacher of English can adapt their current teaching styles and/or develop strategies to meet these challenges.

Satomi Miura

The importance of incorporating more hands-on activities into our upper level primary school English classes

After a two-year transition period, a foreign language (English) became a formally assessed subject in primary schools in Japan from April 2020 alongside new textbooks for Year 5 and Year 6. Consequently, the amount and content of English to be learned in upper primary school has increased, resulting in some confusion among both teachers and children. Some children even seem to have become demotivated at this early stage of learning an additional language. Amidst all this, educators have become keenly aware of the importance of hands-on or experiential activities. These types of activities allow children to become more engaged with the topics and content being studied while helping them retain knowledge by stimulating multiple areas of the brain. In this presentation, I will introduce some of the activities that have been effective in my classes, including "Let's Fetch Water!" and "Lap Book Project: Food Chain".

Nicholas J. Wilson

Exploring the world through ICT
in primary school

The new English textbooks for elementary schools include units and sections dedicated to foreign countries and cultures. However, these are limited in both content and variety. What if we could empower students with the autonomy to explore the world, and give them the opportunities and skills to research, discover and share the tales of their virtual trips with their classmates? In this presentation I will discuss how a digital approach to foreign language education can help teachers switch roles with their students, and let their curiosity become the fuel for creating engaging and entertaining classes.

Presentations will be followed by an opinion and idea exchange session!

