

Learning from an Authentic Experience - through Role Play

Role Play

This lesson is about classroom management strategies. Students are asked to role play typical chaotic classroom situations in Hong Kong schools and think about ways to tackle them.

Chaotic Classrooms

Students were asked to role play and make suggestions on how to handle some common discipline problems in classroom. Students were grouped and each group role played the scene by taking the role of teacher and students in the case. Before the role play, they had the chance to discuss and evaluate the various strategies being used, and try to demonstrate them for comments. The teacher would join in with their authentic role play situation. A discussion was held after each role play session, and some real life episodes were shown on similar classroom situations, this helped consolidated what they had learned. In this authentic learning environment, students were contextualized of being in the classroom and they learned from the discussion to grasp some ideas on classroom management strategies.

CUI5048 Worksheet: Role Play (Lesson 5)

Scene ONE

This is an English lesson, you are the teacher, after you said the objectives of today's lesson, you turn round and write on the board, you find that something hit on your shoulder from the back, it is a piece of paper thrown from the class, you try to handle it. Your classmates will play the role of students (they behave to be very cooperatively not to tell you, and that one of the boys seems to be the one who throw the paper). Please role play the teacher and handle the situation, you have to base on the action you do and the responses and reactions upon your students.

CUI5048 Worksheet: Role Play (Lesson 5)

Scene TWO

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This is an English lesson, you prepare to use PowerPoint for the lesson, and you have asked students to bring the textbook back as you will teach vocabularies in a text you have introduced last time. At the beginning of the lesson, you spent time to locate the file from the server and when you have done it, you find that the projector doesn't work. You spend some time in handling the equipment. Finally you try to use the whiteboard. When you ask students to open the book for the vocabularies, you find that more than one third of the class has not brought back the book. What will you do? ↵

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Scene THREE

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You are the practicing teacher of a primary school and you are assigned to teach English. This is the first lesson you have with students. You are talking to students about the rules and regulations you would like students to observe in your lessons. Please role play what are the rules and how you present them to the class. ↵

Reflection:

Students were motivated by the three scenarios constructed into role plays. As they were common management problems in a real life classroom, they acted enthusiastically and enjoyed the tasks with fun. They role played the scene while trying to imagine and create a chaotic situation for their peers to handle. After this session, I followed up with the class on common classroom discipline rules: the nature of diversities, self-esteem, the socio-psychological condition of the classroom, how classroom rules are set; various management strategies can be applied accordingly, and how punishment and reward can be included in managing a class.