

CREATING A POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT IN A MIXED ABILITY SETTING

Mojca Uhernik Pipan
Elementary School Komen, Slovenia
sem.mojca@gmail.com

Abstract:

Creating a positive learning environment is very important in a mixed ability setting, where there are so many different needs, strengths and personalities. When all the students receive affirmation of their value and positive reinforcement in response to their efforts, not only from their teacher but also from one another, a positive learning environment can be achieved.

In my presentation, I have focused on developing speaking and writing skills in a positive learning environment, so that weaker students are provided with the encouragement and stronger students are provided with the tasks which they find engaging and motivating.

Speaking activities can be made challenging if the students are familiar with the topic, if the length of utterances is appropriate, if the learners are provided with planning time, if the learners are given enough rehearsal time and if non-verbal features are used.

Writing competence in a mixed ability group is best achieved if learners are offered the right amount of challenge and support during the preparation stage through collaborative working modes.

I have tried a number of creative activities in my mixed ability groups and as a result, the students have achieved better results in these two productive skills. What is more, they have been motivated and they have improved their collaborative skills.

Keywords: positive learning environment, mixed ability setting, motivation, productive skills, collaboration.