

MODERN APPROACHES OF TEACHING IN THE 1ST GRADE

Kristina Cencič
Elementary School Vojke Šmuc, Slovenia
kristina.cencic@guest.arnes.si

Abstract:

I will present an example of good practice in the first grade of the elementary school where I have been performing modern forms of teaching in the combination with the Montessori pedagogy for a number of years. I also started to introduce formative following of knowledge, i.e. in the learning about the environment especially. Modern forms of the teaching process contribute to the child's active participation in the process of teaching.

The first step is for a student to understand the purpose of teaching and that he sees the usefulness of learning in everyday life. In the presented case, the purpose of teaching was for the children to name the external parts of the human body.

I activated the prior knowledge of students with the conversation in the group. Before that, we set the criteria for successful cooperation together. The group work and peer evaluation followed on the basis of the previously set criteria. The children evaluated what their prior knowledge on the body parts was, which was important feedback to the teacher for further preparation of the lesson.

Consolidation of knowledge with the use of Montessori materials followed which I created alone. The students were using them during the lesson and also during the extended stay. The materials are of such nature that they encourage cooperation with the children and that the students can use them independently for consolidation of their knowledge. In the presented example one of the students was reading and the other one was showing the body parts. Inter-peer feedback followed. For relaxation, we consolidated knowledge also by playing, singing, and dancing.

Furthermore, the students were collecting proofs on that where they are on the path of learning. We drew our body in the notebook and wrote the names of body parts. They got my feedback which was useful for their further learning.

Keywords: elementary school, modern forms, Montessori materials, formative following of knowledge