

Teaching VYL

What is Teaching VYL?

Teaching VYL stands for Teaching Very Young Learners

Teaching VYL is a training course offered by International House Bucharest, Teacher Training Centre.

It's designed for post - IHCYLT teachers of English who want to broaden their knowledge and abilities in order to better teach preschoolers, as well as for the kindergarten English teachers who need to structure their teaching methodology. This preparation is in high demand since many schools and kindergartens are now focusing on introducing languages in VYL curriculum as early as possible.

The VYLT course consists of **methodological input, observed teaching practice and written assignments**, as well as constantly engaging the participants in practical activities and discussions.

Who is it for?

- Qualified and experienced language teachers who are interested in teaching very young learners (age 2 to 6 years old)
- Qualified and experienced language teachers who have already taught young learners (above 6 years old) who would like specific training in teaching younger children (age 2 to 6)
- Recently qualified English teachers who have just started teaching English and would like to specialise in teaching children who are 2 to 6 years old



- Teachers in private or public kindergartens or schools who would like to gain methodological structure in teaching English to VYLs

Please note that participants' minimum level of English should be B2.

The course is specifically designed to help teachers working with or interested in teaching very young learners (ages 2 to 6). It is not required to have taught this age range previously.

Content

There are 8 sessions covering the following topics:

1. What are Very Young Learners (VYLs)
2. The Very Young Learner (VYL) teacher
3. Managing young children in the classroom
4. Lesson planning
5. Games and songs for children
6. Music and chants for children
7. Story telling for children
8. Materials development



What to expect from a Teaching VYL course?

Expect a thrilling intensive 1-week challenge during which:

1. you attend daily fun and enjoyable input sessions
2. You are exposed to the knowledge from two perspectives: a child psychologist's and a teacher trainer's
3. you get instruction from experienced VYL teachers
4. you spend 8 hours a day doing coursework (input, lesson planning, observations)
5. you do some coursework after the training is finished (assignments)
6. you teach a VYL group
7. you are given expert support for your lesson planning
8. you receive valuable feedback from your tutors and peers
9. you benefit from access to computers, printers, photocopiers and library resources in EKA

Assessment

Three of the modules have tasks which are assessed by the tutors. Final assessment is based on an end-of-course portfolio (three tasks).



What is unique about this course?

One of the best things that participants always tell us is that they have got so much that they can take away because they get lots of ideas from the other trainees and trainers. You will leave the course with a pool of activities, games, songs that you can use with your children in class.

The second thing that is unique about this course consist in blending together the psychological and pedagogical approaches in order to better understand your target group's needs and to develop lessons that are properly adapted to them. Based on our motto "Happy learners are effective learners", in order to have happy VYLs in the lass we need to fully understand them.

What is the main difference between teaching Young Learners and Very Young Learners?

There are some common elements to teaching Very Young Learners (2 to 6 years old) and Young Learners (above 6 years old) but also many differences which teachers need to be aware of. The two age groups have very different needs.

On the one hand, in Young Learners classes (children aged 6 and above) your primary roles in the classroom are to teach the language, as well as to foster their development as a human being (social skills, self-expression, owning the learning process). On the other hand, as a VYL teacher you need to provide nursery education by reacting properly to children`s needs. You will also face the challenges of teaching children who are not used to being in an English classroom and might have never been in any kind of classroom before.

