

## Planning Practical, Effective Lessons

*As elementary world language teachers, we often have limited time with students.*

*So, let's make the most of it!*

When our students are new to a language, we need to set them up for success so that their experience is not only meaningful, but fun.

### Establish a routine:

- An initial routine prepares students to “switch” languages and start each lesson feeling successful.
- Welcome song/ How are you feeling today?
- Calendar
- Predictable patterns and commands
- Routines also allow teachers time to prepare for the upcoming class

### Teach & review language learning/comprehension strategies:

- Listen for words that sound like English words
- Look for visual cues
- Look for actions and facial expressions
- Give specific praise to promote behaviors that you want to see.

### Allow time for review and practice of skills:

- There is a lot of language to cover. If you “cover” a lot and students don't remember much, it may be because there wasn't enough time to experience and practice using the language.

### Plan lessons that include:

- Visuals: everything from clip art to maps to photographs and real objects
- Movement: actions to match vocabulary, TPR activities
- Music: Students soak it up and will “practice the language” even when you're not around! Use a mixture of culturally authentic music and versions of songs that students are familiar with in English.
- Conversational language that kids can practice and use on their own
- Authentic representations of the target culture: We are responsible for presenting culture as varied and unique from family to family and area to area.
- Children's literature/ nonfiction with repetitive language and pictures that support the text and catch the attention of our language learners.