

# To educate children... just from the neck up?



**Some teachers are really successful. Their students learn and they enjoy their English lessons. Do these teachers have some sort of magic wand?**

**You may call it a magic wand if you want to in the sense that it opens up a new world to learners. Young learners realize they can enjoy learning, which may be a new experience to many. This does not mean games all the time. It also brings with it the idea of reflection and of effort as well, which is compensated for by a rewarding sense of achievement for both teachers and learners.**

**How can this be accomplished with young learners?**

**It can be very easy. One of the key elements is the teacher's commitment to what he or she's doing, a strong belief that anybody can learn English, which is absolutely true. Another key element is starting from where learners are, being able to empathies with them, helping them make connections, become aware of how English works. It may take longer, but it's worth it. We must also remember that we are Educators educating children through English. This means we should pay attention to the cognitive aspect, but to other aspects as well. Bruner says teachers should educate taking into account the three h's: head (thinking), hands (doing) and hearts (feeling). These three should be present in our lessons. This means involving children as a whole, not educating from the neck up.**

**Is it possible to do with young learners?**

**Absolutely. One way to achieve this is through the world of magic and fantasy. It's a world all children love, where there are good and hard times; a world in which they can take on different roles, place themselves in somebody else's shoes, become aware of how others are affected by what we do. This gives rise to the discussion of values, a must if we want to make a change in the world we're living in. Going back to the previous idea, all this is easy to achieve if you are a true Educator: Information we can get almost everywhere nowadays. A true Educator goes beyond information. A true Educator is the person who will help children transform information into knowledge by using their head, hands and heart.**

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