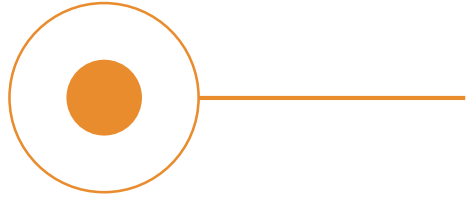
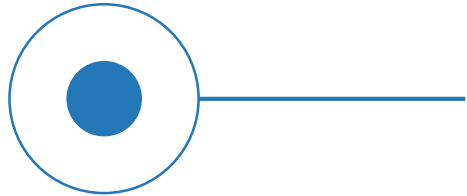


The importance of the young learner element of teacher training programmes

Simon Dunton, Trinity College London



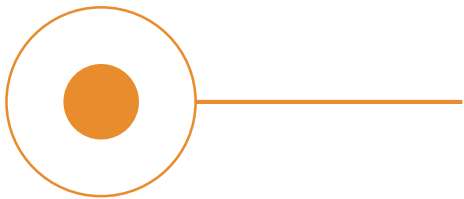
Importance of YL element



Current observations

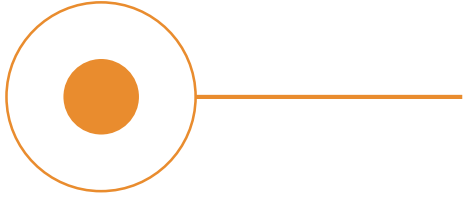


Suggestions



Importance of YL element

- 79.4% Primary education (age 6 and up)
- 97.3% Lower secondary school
- 33.3% French
- 23.1% German
- 13.1% Spanish



Importance of YL element

Top-down drivers

Government & working sphere

“Demand from young learners will continue because, according to the employers and expert linguists interviewed, mainstream schools do not produce school leavers with the necessary linguistic skills or proficiency levels high enough for the workplace.”



Importance of YL element

Top-down drivers **Parental**

“The demand for learning English to improve and to top up the skills learned in school looks set to increase. This demand comes from the parents of young learners (who recognise that their children need better English than the school system can provide).”



Importance of YL element

Bottom-up drivers Learners

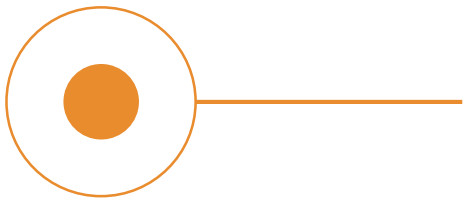
“For teens and young people, lots of activities that have social currency take place in English – gaming, texting, vlogging, social media, chatrooms and YouTube. Polish teachers told us that students text each other in English. The popularity of HBO’s Game of Thrones was mentioned in interviews in France, Greece, Spain and Romania. Culturally, the world is getting smaller and English is the dominant language in many spheres, particularly those using new technologies.”



Importance of YL element

Fundamental Question

Are we trying to help trainees pass their Cert course, or are we trying to prepare them for the realities of the contemporary working classroom?



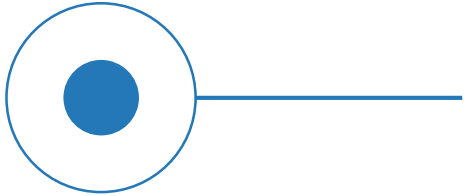
Importance of YL element

Provision within Cert scope

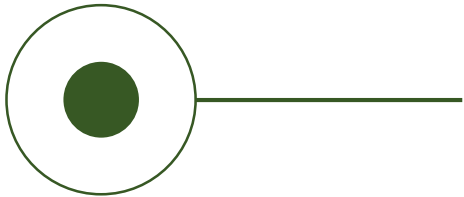
“The CertTESOL focuses primarily on the teaching of English to adults — learners over 16. However, it is recognised that the majority of ESOL teachers will at some stage in their careers teach young learners. The flexibility of Trinity’s CertTESOL qualification allows course providers to include input sessions on areas specific to young learners *if they feel that this is appropriate.*”



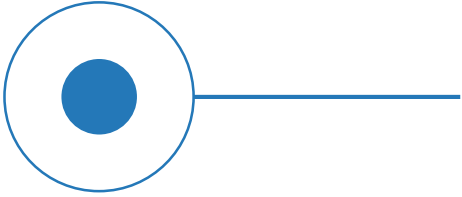
Importance of YL element



Current observations



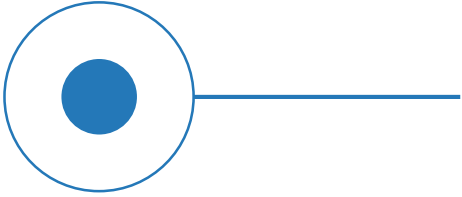
Suggestions



Current observations



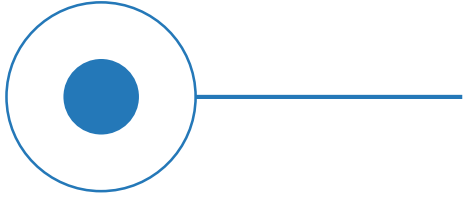
“You're welcome to observe but that's what usually happens. And has done since I first taught it in 2007... should probably update... especially some of the resources which are way out of date...”



Current observations



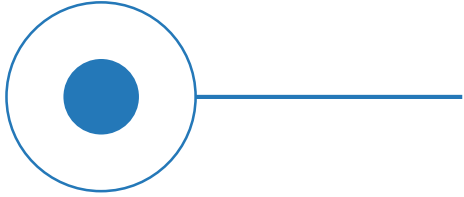
“I don’t have any well-designed material that’s worth sharing, but I can send you an outline of what I would usually do in the session.”



Current observations

“I mean, you can come if you really want to...”

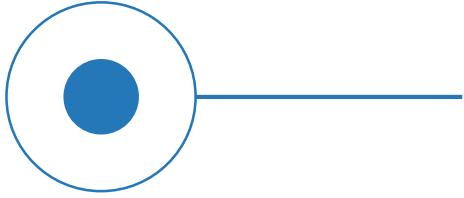




Current observations

Most typical topics covered in YL input session:

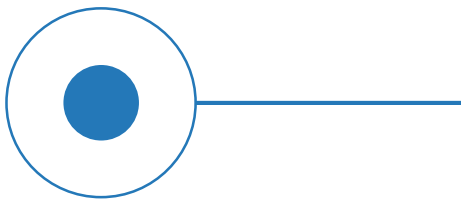
- Classroom management
- Dealing with parents
- Games
- Songs
- TPR
- Crafts



Current observations

Running dictation / unscramble / board race

- What is a YL?
- How do you feel about teaching YLs?
- Why are we learning about this?
- What are the main differences between teaching YLs and teaching adults?



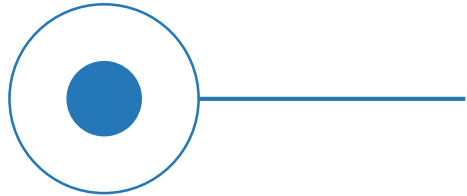
Current observations

Week Four	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09.20-10.40	ESOL exams	Language awareness and phonology test	Teaching young learners	Teaching online	Moderation day (Please check you interview timings and ensure you arrived at least 15 minutes beforehand)
10.45-11.55	Phonology 7 Review		Coursebook analysis	Teaching in other contexts (business, CLIL, EAP, etc)	
12.00-13.00	Portfolio housekeeping		Special Educational Needs (SEN)	Unknown Foreign Language journal completion	
14.00-14.45	Lesson planning	Lesson planning	Lesson planning	Teaching Practice Journal preparation/completion	
14.45-16.45	Teaching Practice	Teaching Practice	Teaching Practice	Materials Assignment interview practice	
17.00-17.30	Post TP self-evaluation and feedback	Post TP self-evaluation and feedback	Post TP self-evaluation and feedback	Teaching Practice Journal preparation/completion	

N.B. Timings are estimates and alterations may occur on a regular basis. Select sessions can be omitted on Wed/Thur of week 4 due to time constraints.



Importance of YL element



Current observations

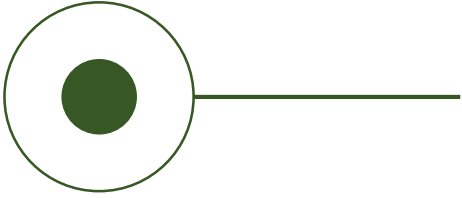


Suggestions



Suggestions

1. Integrate YL elements throughout course
2. Highlight importance of this context
3. Bring in an expert specialist



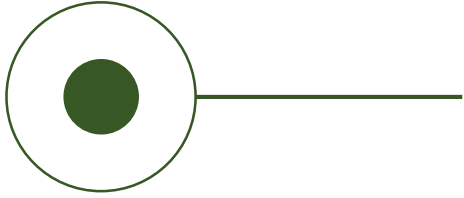
Suggestions

Integrate throughout course

- Input sessions
 - Classroom management
 - Developing skills
 - Teaching online
 - Beginners
 - CPD
 - World Englishes
- (Video) guided observation



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Suggestions

Highlight importance

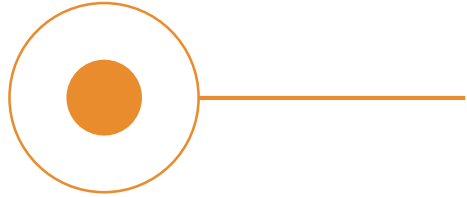
- Interview stage
- Share facts and figures
- Prepare for working TESOL sphere
- Encourage importance of understanding YL elements



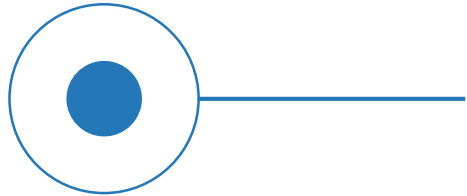
Suggestions

Bring in an expert

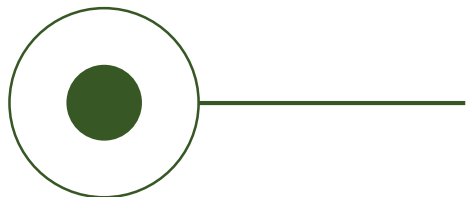
- Get a faculty member who has recently taught in the YL classroom to deliver the YL session.
 - Trainees benefit from real, recent experiences
 - Structured CPD for input tutor
 - Recognition of expertise within faculty/centre
 - Focus on the positives



Importance of YL element



Current observations



Suggestions



References & further reading

European Commission/EACEA/Eurydice. (2017). *Key Data on Teaching Languages at School in Europe – 2017 Edition. Eurydice Report*. Available at: op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/3b929832-3f61-11e7-a08e-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF. Accessed 10 October 2020.

British Council. (2018). *The Future Demand for English in Europe: 2025 and Beyond*. Available at: britishcouncil.org/education/schools/support-for-languages/thought-leadership/research-report/future-of-english-eu-2025. Accessed 10 October 2020.

Richelle Gamlam. (2016). "How the ESL Industry in China is Changing", GoOverseas [Blog]. Available at: gooverseas.com/blog/how-the-esl-industry-in-china-is-changing. Accessed 10 October 2020.

Resources

padlet.com/teachersimon/lz9zu08fni6b

This session has now ended

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