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Name of Activity: “Busy hands”-- A fun game for prepositions

Target learners: Grade 3 (EFL students)

Time required: 40 minutes

Aims

1. Students will be able to understand the use of the 4 prepositions: “on, under, in, next to”
2. Students will be able to say these words.
3. Students will be able to use them to make simple sentences.

Materials required & pre-lesson preparation

Teaching Props:

flashcards, blackboard, chalks, pens, erasers, books, rulers, worksheet

In class procedure

1. Arouse motivation (5 minutes):

On the blackboard, teacher draws 4 pictures of a desk, a box next to the desk each with a pencil in a different place, such as:

- a. The pencil is on the desk.
- b. The pencil is under the desk.
- c. The pencil is next to the desk.
- d. The pencil is in the box.

Students are asked to observe the pictures carefully and say what differences they've found.

2. Direct Instruction and TPR teaching (20 minutes):

- a. Teacher explains the concept of the prepositions by pointing to the different locations of the pencils and lead students to repeat the words: in, on, under, next to...
- b. Invite one student to the front. Student listens to the sentence and places their pencil to the right position. For example: Teacher says: “The pen is under the desk.”

The student points to the pencil which is under the desk and the teacher leads the whole class repeat the sentence. Repeat several times by inviting more students to demonstrate the concepts of different prepositions.

- c. Ask one student to be the commander and another one to act.

Students are learning “listening and speaking” at the same time.



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3. Extensive learning (10 min): TPR and Cooperative learning

After students are familiar with the four prepositions, Teacher can extend the word bank and guide them to create different sentences with the words they've learned before, such as: The book is on my desk. The ruler is in the pencil box. The marker is next to the book. The eraser is under the desk...and so forth.

Game: "Busy hands"

1. Group students.
2. Teacher says one sentence, such as: "The eraser is next to the pencil box," and group members need to work together to put the right item in the right place.
3. This game can be made more challenging by giving students more than one idea like: "The red pen is on the eraser and the eraser is under the chair..."
4. It promotes cooperation because each student might have different stationery items so that they have to share. As the sentences get longer, they need to help each other to remember all the items and their positions.

Follow up

Teacher passes out the worksheets, on which several objects are drawn in different places. Students need to fill out the preposition words base on the pictures or draw the items in the right place according to the sentences.

