

NILE NORWICH

Teaching English to Young Learners



Course Overview:

'The earlier the better' is often the accepted wisdom when it comes to starting learning a foreign language. Early education brings a number of benefits to learning, not least of which is the attitude of the students to the language, and to the learning of it.

This 50-hour course focuses on key approaches to teaching English to young learners. It will help you to better understand the theory behind optimal learning at this age, and the practical aspects of recognising and responding to the needs of the students. You will have the opportunity to share best practice and develop materials for this age group of learners.

Who is the course suitable for?

- Teachers as well as academic managers in the young learner field (the term 'young learners' should be taken to cover the 6 - 13 age range)
- Participants with a minimum language level corresponding to B1 on the Common European Framework

What will the course include?

As a course participant, you will receive a pre-course questionnaire, which should be returned prior to the course. This is to ensure that the areas of most relevance to you are integrated into the course content.

The course will include content drawn from some or all of the following areas, depending on your contextual and personal needs and priorities:

- Exploring the realisation of approaches to teaching English to young learners
- Understanding cognitive development and first language learning in young learners
- Evaluating materials for teaching English to young learners
- Designing and creating - teacher-made materials
- Exploring options for the assessment of young learners
- Examining initial syllabus and course design
- Investigating classroom observation as a means of revealing and informing practice
- Developing insights into cultural and intercultural issues
- Exploring classroom language
- Extending personal language development

Time will be built into the course for reflection and for you to consider how to adapt ideas from the course to the classroom in your own professional context.

All NILE's courses involve a significant element of English language improvement and/or development of language awareness.

How long is the course?

The 50-hour course provision is built around intensive tuition from trainers who are experts in the field of teaching English to young learners and also includes opportunities for reading and research, as well as a guest lecture from a well-known figure in the field of ELT. Classes are held from Monday to Friday and take place as detailed in the course-specific timetable but always within the hours 0915 – 1715.

What approach is used?

- Classes will be practical and 'hands-on', but with reference to relevant theory
- Courses are participant-centred involving tasks providing memorable learning contexts
- Tasks will be used to illustrate the key course objectives through procedure and content
- The approach includes opportunities for exploring key and contemporary issues

Facilities and resources

The NILE course venue includes an extensive ELT library and computer suite with Wi-Fi throughout. Each course has a Moodle online learning platform which includes a comprehensive online library and enables you to access course materials and share ideas and materials with other course participants. This facility will be available to you for six months after the course so you can keep in touch with your colleagues and continue to access course materials once you have returned home.