

LET'S TALK ABOUT...

TPR-TOTAL PHYSICAL RESPONSE METHOD

1)WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

Total Physical Response (TPR) is a method that was developed by James Asher in the late 1960s, with the goal of helping students acquire a second language.

Keep in mind that even if you don't are aware of it, we are already using TPR activities in our classes. We have been using TPR activities in circle time, and to learn new vocabulary and grammar structures during the themed lesson, but also during story telling, games, art crafts!

The main assumption is **that a second language can be learned in the same way as the first - through the same natural processes**. So, TPR tries to **mimic** these processes by requiring students to respond to commands, which in turn require physical movements. Naturally, this method was embraced by ESL teachers back then, but it is still quite popular today, particularly when teaching children or beginners.

Using TPR means **using the body - the all body (YOUR BODY AND CHILDREN'S BODY!)** to teach English **without translating**, so that grammar and target vocabulary are learned implicitly!

The advantages:

ESL activities with TPR are tremendous fun for students, even for grown ups once they become less self-conscious. But it is precisely because children are less self-conscious about moving their bodies around the classroom, that these activities are excellent ways to get young learners up and about. Finally, activities with TPR are great for kinesthetic learners who need more action or hands on activities.

HERE YOU'LL FIND VERY WELL MADE VIDEOS ON TPR METHOD on YOUTUBE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQQrRF53r50>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-d79-veEBXQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N00coyNZYVk>

2) TPR ACTIVITIES TO BE USED IN OUR CLASSROOMS

TPR activities are actually an important part of our method! Nevertheless, this booklet is meant to make us more aware of the IMPORTANCE of certain games\activities\ and of using our body during the lessons.

TPR activities are based on

songs
miming
acting out
body language
visuals
actions
follow commands
tpr games
tpr story telling

Through TPR method is that kids internalize the target language in chunks rather than word by word memorization.

Example:

When you say to a kid "here you are" miming the action, s\he will internalize the all sentence without bothering of the single words!

This is why with TPR method we can focus on structures of the speech rather than list of words!

What should we do?

- Use English as the language of instructions
- Use Simple words, short phrases, acting out what you mean, using gestures, objects, showing pictures, walking around the class to show what has to be done, everything that can help children to attach your words to a meaning
- Do not cheat the children by reverting to Italian, this won't motivate them to try and understand you!
- Give clear Commands and Demonstrations of the answers you require
- If no kid is able to follow your instruction do it yourself to show them. i.e if you ask a child "Go to the wall" and he doesn't understand it, go to the child, take his hand and go to the wall saying "Go to the wall"
- Praise a lot! use: Hi five, Well Done, Great Job etc
- Do check on the children's comprehension, just asking simple questions that require a yes\no answer or have a gesture or a painting to an image (Is it a banana? Yes\no)

Watch some demonstration of TPR ACTIVITIES HERE!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oqZiHQQZcEw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b2AEtreBXgE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0osb0xMjfl>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9f7GxA084EI>

2.1)

TPR DURING CIRCLE TIME

1

Hello-Bye Bye Songs\ Action songs

There is one important rule: always associate words to movements while singing!
You can have a look to our tool box——> Circle Time to review the tips for this moment and get a list of songs, action songs and activities.

Alway start your lesson with a Hello and finish your lesson with a "HIGH NOTE_ENERGY RELEASING goodbye song! In questo modo, al di la del fatto che la lezione possa essere andata più o meno bene, i bambini usciranno con una faccia sorridente, sentendosi positivi e felici con la sensazione di aver ottenuto dei risultati!

Why songs+ actions are important? They are an incredibly effective way to pass vocabulary and speech structures implicitly!

Pick 1 Hello Song, 1 Bye Bye Song and some Action Songs and make the children listen and act them out EVERY LESSON!

2

TPR questions during circle time

You can use mime to help students answer questions, remember the questions, understand the individual words in a question and/ or take part in question drilling even if they are too shy to speak.

For example with "What's your name?" you can mime shoulders hunched with palms up for "question/ what", a cupped palm facing towards another person for "your" and pointing at a real or imagined name badge for "name".

Or How Are you Today?\FEELINGS

you can mime shoulders hunched with palms up for "question/ How", a finger pointing towards another person for "you" and arms stretched forward \ palms pointing up for today. And mime the feelings

WATCH THIS VIDEO

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bup9Ym82BPM>

How's the weather today?

you can mime shoulders hunched with palms up for "question/ How", point out to say "weather", stretched forward \ palms pointing up for today

Pick an action for sunny, rainy, foggy and so on

ALPHABET WITH TPR

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LChBR1DR_BU

3

TPR GAMES FOR THE THEMED LESSON

We use a lot of TPR GAMES\ACTIVITIES in our lessons!

Examples are Obstacle courses, Hop-scotches, flashcard games like Catch the Parrot, Games like, Pirates on the Island, Activities that involve Movement, sounds and words \ structures we want to teach. We also use TPR also during our expressive activities \ art crafts when we invite children to do things through "commands".
(remember that the "imperative tense" is the golden tense of TPR!)

Understanding how TPR works can help us during all our EFL activities, because you'll know what to do and not to do when using

visuals

movements

miming

commands

repetition

Your lesson will become more effective!

Here are some of the "Classical" TPR ACTIVITIES

ACTION STORIES

An activity we can use to learn new vocab and associated actions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Mk6RRf4kKs>

Story telling with actions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkMQXFOqyQA>

GAMES

Simon Says (with a spin!) Clearly, it's a classic among TPR activities, one that is more commonly used to teach the parts of the body. But why not go beyond the simple, "Simon says touch your nose" and try more complex commands? Say you are teaching your students how to give directions. Clear up a space in the classroom, one your students can easily maneuver around. Your commands could be directions: "Simon says turn right, Simon says go straight ahead." Create a mini neighborhood! Place a flashcard or picture on each of your students' desks: a bank, a pharmacy, a shopping center, etc. Arrange the desks so they create "streets". Students take turns giving each other directions to and from locations in their neighborhood.

Simon lies

Students only copy the teacher when the thing they say and the thing they do is the same, e.g. when they say "jump" and jump. If the words and action don't match (jumping and saying "sleep") the children should stay still.

Charades

Another classic game, this one is best suited to action verbs and sports. For example, to teach sports you must first introduce each with flashcards, act out each of the sports yourself, and have students say each out loud with you. Then you divide the class into two teams. Each student must take a flashcard, picture or card with a sport written on it, and pantomime the movements involved in playing the sport so that his or her teammates can guess what it is. Encourage them to be silly or exaggerate if they have to. Teammates have to answer in complete sentences: you are playing basketball.

A Stroll around the Classroom

This activity is great for kids and adult students. You'll need several objects or props/realia - as many as you'd like to use. First, you pantomime a series of actions while you say the phrases. Then you say the phrases and ask a student to pantomime the actions. You can try this with several students and use different objects. Finally, they should do it on their own and walk around the classroom interacting with objects. Try something like this:

You open your bag.

You look inside.

You take out a pencil case.

You open it.

You close it.

You put it in the bag.

You look at your book.

You open it.

You close it.

You touch your ear.

You find your pencil!

Mime Role Plays

You are an animal

Give each student a card\ puppet or plastic animal to do the mimes with. If you don't have enough for one per student, you can give it to each student at a time and let the class shout out instructions like "jump on the teacher". This can also be combined with Sensible Animal Mimes below.

Animals and actions

You can combine animals and actions and add fun with instructions like "the rabbit is jumping" (making rabbit ears on your head while jumping) or "the elephant is stomping its feet" (swinging one arm in front of your nose as its trunk while stomping your feet).

Sensible animal mimes

In this variation on Animals and Actions, students only follow the instructions if the teacher says a sentence that is true in nature, e.g. "A bird flies" but not "A snake plays tennis".

Sensible object mimes

Students only do the mime if it possible with the object the teacher names, e.g. stay still for "Eat a ball" but act for "Ride an elephant"

Quickly slowly actions

An easy variation on any kind of TPR actions practice is just getting the students to do it slowly and quickly. This adds two pieces of vocabulary that are very useful for classroom instructions and makes revision of previous vocabulary more interesting.

Left right actions

Another easy variation on almost any action is to add left and right, e.g. "Hop on your left foot" or "Play basketball with your left hand"

LEARNING ADJECTIVES GAMES

Little big actions

Another easy and fun variation is getting students to do alternate big and small jumps/ steps/ hops etc. Please note that these are all the nouns of the action words, whereas most of the other examples here are verbs.

Opposite actions

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Dealing with actions as opposites not only makes them more memorable but can also add an element of fun, e.g. do "climb up, climb up, climb up" with the tension building and then "fall down!"

Adjectives Actions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9f7GxA084EI>

HERE YOU CAN WATCH A GAME BANK BASED ON TPR

You'll find 22 Games to learn vocabulary through TPR method! (Wattsenglish Game Bank)

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=WattsEnglish++GAME+BANK

ENJOY!