

# The Cultivation of Primary School Students' Interest in English Learning

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**Abstract:**

*Under the background of quality education, many primary school English teachers have paid more and more attention to their students' learning spontaneity. English teachers in primary school begin to focus on their students' learning emotion besides teaching them the knowledge about English. As we all know, if students have interest in English learning, they will learn English actively, spontaneously and happily. So cultivating primary school students' interest in English learning is very essential. It is also a big problem which has been discussed by researchers and educators for many years. This paper firstly points out the importance of primary school students' interest in English learning, and then offers some ways to cultivate their interest in English learning, such as: establishing a harmonious relationship between teachers and students, creating a vivid language environment, and making full use of various teaching methods.*

**Key words:** cultivation; interest; English learning; the importance of interest; ways; primary school students; primary school English teachers

## **1. Introduction**

<sup>[3]</sup>“Language is a means of verbal communication”. Each nation has its own language. English is a foreign language for Chinese people. The importance of English learning is obvious: “With the development of economic globalization, English is widely used in every field and becomes the most important tool of communication. <sup>[4]</sup>Therefore, learning and mastering a foreign language, especially English, has been a basic request for the citizens in the 21st century”. Nowadays, the education of English in primary school is not only an early education but also a basic education, so English teachers in primary school play very important roles in English teaching. However, many English teachers in primary school have found that some of their students are not interested in English learning, which can cause a big problem for their teaching. It is important for primary school English teachers to realize that the necessity and the significance of cultivating their students’ interest in English learning. In order to help their students to learn English well, English teachers in primary school should firstly realize the necessity and the significance of cultivating their students’ interest in English learning, and then try their best to cultivate their students’ interest in English learning.

## **2. The Importance of Primary School Students’ Interest in English Learning**

Albert Einstein said that: “Interest is the best teacher”. Interest is of great importance for English learning, as it can strengthen students’ learning motivations. Thus, interest is a very significant factor in increasing primary school students’ learning efficiency and helping them to learn English well.

### **2.1 Many Kinds of Teaching Forms Have Appeared**

In recent years, we can easily find out that many teaching aids have been used in English teaching. English teachers in primary school use pictures to teach their students new English words. In order to attract the attention of their students, English teachers in primary school combine new English words with interesting English stories. They can also teach their students a lot of knowledge about English by playing games. Many kinds of teaching forms have appeared, and all these teaching forms have a common goal that makes the English teaching more interesting.

### **2.2 The Positive Impact of Being Interested in English Learning**

Under the background of quality education, primary school students’ interest in English learning is a key factor. Firstly, if primary school students have interest in English learning, they will learn English actively, spontaneously and happily. And then, English teaching will be easier for English teachers in primary school, many teacher resources will be saved, while primary school students are more capable of using English for communication. Secondly, if primary school students are interested in English learning, they want to learn English well, they dare to speak English out confidently, they dare to ask all sorts of questions and find the answers to those questions by themselves. Therefore, primary school students’ interest in English learning is an important factor for them to achieve their goals in English learning.

### **2.3 The Negative Impact of Losing Interest in English Learning**

The evidence shows that if primary school students lose interest in English learning, it is impossible for them to learn English spontaneously. There is no doubt that they cannot learn English well and achieve their goals in English learning. Students in primary school may do not like their English teachers and may even hate learning English. These problems are so common especially in primary school. Although primary school students are young and inexperienced, they have their own ideas about English learning. As everyone knows, primary school students are often emotional. And they like treating other things subjectively, including English learning. If primary school students lose interest in English learning, they will feel bored during the class. They often fail to behave well in class. Their bad behaviors in class will disturb the teaching of their English teachers and the studying of other students who are fond of English learning. This phenomenon is urgently warning us and we must take measures to solve these problems. Therefore, it is necessary and significant for English teachers in primary school to try their best to cultivate their students' interest in English learning.

### **3. Ways to Cultivate Primary School Students' Interest in English Learning**

Excellent English teachers in primary school should know how to cultivate their students' learning interest during the process of English teaching, and they should try their best to make their students love to learn English and be good at learning English. After analyzing the importance of primary school students' interest in English learning, we can realize that the necessity and the significance of cultivating primary school students' interest in English learning. Therefore, it is necessary and significant for primary school English teachers to find out some ways to cultivate their students' interest in English learning, such as: establishing a harmonious relationship between teachers and students, creating a vivid language environment, and making full use of various teaching methods.

#### **3.1 Establishing a Harmonious Relationship between Teachers and Students**

The harmonious relationship between teachers and students is conducive to cultivating primary school students' interest in English learning. A relaxing and enjoyable learning atmosphere can help primary school students to study hard, think deeply and successfully acquire the knowledge about English in a pleasant mood and cultivate their interest in English learning. In order to cultivate primary school students' interest in English learning, English teachers should try their best to create a relaxing, equal, harmonious and enjoyable learning atmosphere in class. <sup>[6]</sup>The relationship between teachers and students directly affects primary school students' emotion and their cognitive activities. For example, when students' favorite English teacher enters the classroom, the classroom atmosphere will become active, and the students in the classroom will learn English spontaneously and happily. In the process of English teaching, English teachers in primary school should respect, care about and appreciate their students, most important of all, treat every student positively and equally, and believe that each student has strong potential in learning English. In order to establish a harmonious

relationship between teachers and students, primary school English teachers should try their best to change their roles in traditional English teaching, pay more attention to their students' emotional changes, take full advantage of their own experience in order to provide help for their students, make their students feel happy and satisfied during the process of English learning, and cultivate their students' interest in English learning.

### **3.2 Creating a Vivid Language Environment**

The English Syllabus for primary school clearly points out that the main purpose of English teachers' class is to arouse their students' enthusiasm and cultivate their students' interest in English learning.<sup>[5]</sup> The key point for primary school English teachers to achieve this goal is to cultivate their students' self-confidence and learning interest by creating a vivid language environment. How to create a vivid language environment for English learning is a problem which English teachers in primary school have to think about and solve. As everyone knows, classroom atmosphere plays an important role in arousing and cultivating primary school students' interest in English learning. It is primary school English teachers' responsibility to create a vivid language environment for their students. In the positive, happy and harmonious classroom atmosphere, primary school students can interact with their English teachers and other classmates in English, and gradually they will have strong interest in English learning and strong desire to learn English well.<sup>[2]</sup> English teachers in primary school should also strengthen their students' English listening and speaking abilities unconsciously, so that their students' interest in learning English can be cultivated successfully. In the process of English teaching, English teachers in primary school should firstly try their best to use English as much as possible, and employ some words and sentences in realistic dialogue; and then, English teachers can make the most of suitable opportunities to organize various after-class activities, such as: setting up regular English corners or English clubs, holding English speech contests, telling English stories and so on. There is no doubt that the behavior of teachers can help more primary school students to discover the beauty of English and cultivate their interest in English learning through the creation of vivid language environment.

### **3.3 Making Full Use of Various Teaching Methods**

The visual imagery of primary school students is dominant, and they are enthusiastic about visual and vivid pictures. In order to arouse the enthusiasm of primary school students and cultivate their interest in English learning, English teachers in primary school should try to make full use of all kinds of teaching methods during the process of English teaching, such as: singing, painting, playing games and so on. The evidence shows that these various teaching methods play an increasingly important role in the process of English teaching.<sup>[1]</sup> In particular, simple line drawing shows its superiority. It is one of the most popular visual teaching methods, and also the most fundamental skill for primary school English teachers. English teachers in primary school who use simple language along with the explanation makes the language and image information combine in the process of English teaching to find out the solutions and solve the problems in English teaching, attract their

students' attention, deepen their students' understanding, strengthen their students' memory, and finally help their students to learn the knowledge about English in a relaxing and happy learning atmosphere.

#### 4. Conclusion

Interest is an essential factor which affects primary school students' English learning. Interest can arouse primary school students' thirst for knowledge, strongly stimulate their learning motivations and motivate them to study English hard. If primary school students are interested in English learning, they are more likely to learn English well. On the contrary, if primary school students have little interest in English learning, it is difficult for them to succeed in English learning. When they lose interest in English learning, they may feel bored in class and stop learning English. So it is necessary and significant for primary school English teachers to try their best to cultivate their students' interest in English learning. There is no doubt that many English teachers in primary school have realized the importance of their students' interest in English learning. In order to cultivate their students' interest in English learning, English teachers in primary school try to establish a harmonious relationship between teachers and students, create a vivid language environment, and make full use of various teaching methods. Only in this way can they do better in English teaching and be excellent English teachers.

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