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**Winter - Spring 2011, Shaping Chile Networks
University of Oregon, American English Institute
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Action Plan Project for “Shaping the Way We Teach English”

In this online course, we are focusing on new teaching techniques and resources. Choose one technique or classroom innovation that you would like to incorporate into your class, and develop an action plan (below) for accomplishing this. Please give as much detail as possible.

Date Created: 6/5/11

Class: 6th grade

Name of Action Plan Creator: Marcela Hernandez Cabrera

Number of Students: 25

New teaching techniques or ideas I plan to use: the use of working stations to integrate the use of the communicative approach in class.

Language Level: Beginning

My Class Now

6th grade is a new grade for me. There are 25 students, most of whom came from different schools this year. I am just new like them in the school. Everybody complains about them because teachers say they don't work, but they work with me without any problem. They are willing to learn everything. On the other hand, they are so young that it is sometimes difficult for me to have them sit. I know they like moving around as they used to do years ago (we know even teens want to move), but the idea is that they can move without making disorder and move for a purpose, a good one, to learn by doing something practical. They have problems with lack of vocabulary, low reading comprehension, lack of concentration, low self-esteem (some of them say to me, "I don't know, I can't do it, I feel embarrassed, etc.) but I know they can. When I monitor their jobs in the classroom I can see they do great jobs and answer my objectives, but they don't know how to work in groups, collaborating and cooperating with each other. So that's why I would like to try with work stations within the classroom, also it is a value within a unit of classes.

My Class in the Future (My Vision)

6th grade with 25 students will be a team where most of them will prefer to work in groups than alone, will enjoy doing projects and not just tests and also they will enjoy doing more than learning theoretical things. Also, they will acquire a better reading comprehension level and will gain key vocabulary words organized by topics. Besides they will enjoy working with stations because they can move and do many activities to learn a topic, a function, or achieve objectives in the class, unit, semester, year etc. Their self-esteem will be higher because they not only will be recognized by their teachers but also by their peers and parents because they will know about their progress through a portfolio. I will also invite parents when it is necessary to see their children in action projects.

Additional Explanation from Action Plan Creator

In "My Class in the Future (My Vision)" above, you described a change you would like to see happen in your class. Provide additional information for the following related items. Write as though you are informing a person who knows nothing about your educational setting.

1. **The benefits I predict from this change:** They will learn to work in groups, not just in competition, even to help each other. Also, they will be more independent students because working in groups will help them to make decisions, taking into account peers' opinions more than the teacher's.
2. **Challenges I expect:** They will feel more confidence within the process of learning, feel more motivated and enjoy learning in a new way (activity).
3. **How I will address those challenges:** I will make some changes in the way they work, more group work. I will give them feedback at the end of every lesson to check in groups the common mistakes.

4. Steps and timeline (schedule) for completing the change:

Set a goal and objectives to achieve: Students will have to describe what people look like and what they are wearing in a final project called “A fashion parade” that will be shown to rest of the school community and their parents. Students will have a unit called “my friends and I” where the main objective is to describe themselves and friends. It will last 4 weeks (4 lessons of 2 hrs) and in every class they will have the opportunity to learn vocabulary, structures, pronunciation, etc.

Present it to the students: Every group will have to present two models and two presenters that describe what they are wearing and someone in the group will describe what they look like.

Develop the unit through different activities: Working in stations, where students will have to develop the needed skills to achieve the objectives for the goal (to create a fashion parade) and also to consolidate vocabulary, grammar structures, pronunciation, etc.

5. How I will assess the degree of success of the change: I will assess with a rubric, as a group, so the idea is each one supports the other to achieve the criteria proposed in the rubric, such as cooperation, ideas, creativity, etc.