



Do You Believe in Magic?

FLESFEST 2014

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I. MAGIC = IMAGINATION

- Walking through the door to a new place in the world
- New identity – have the courage to try something new
- New contexts made real through props, images, sounds, costumes
- Whole brain activity
 - Right hemisphere = imagination
 - Left hemisphere = verbal, analytic, structural processing
- Meaningful contexts
 - Identification: new name, role play
 - Cultural: shopping in a market
 - Situational: leading the opening of class routine
 - Information-giving: telling someone what to expect in X
- “Pretending to Learn in the L2 Classroom: The Role of Imagination” by Linda Quinn Allen, Iowa State University (**The NECTFL Review** 57 Fall/Winter 2005/2006)

II. MAGIC = COMMUNITY

- Getting to know each other: backgrounds, experiences
- Learning something new together – level playing field – safe environment
- Inviting all learners to be full participants in the lesson
- Working together in small groups
 - Complete a task
 - Play a game
 - Practice a role play
- “Enhancing Language Development Through the Responsive Classroom’s “Morning Meeting” by Cindy LaVan (4th Grade) and Laura Pezan (1st Grade) Robbinsdale Spanish Immersion School, Robbinsdale, MN (**The ACIE Newsletter**, February 2005, Vol.8, No.2)
http://www.carla.umn.edu/immersion/acie/vol8/Feb2005_Classroom_Meeting.html

III. MAGIC = MUSIC

- Creating atmosphere - playful
- Influencing positive emotions
- Building community
- Building verbal memory
- Building listening skills
- “Music and Movement and Foreign Language Acquisition” <http://www.ana-kindermusik.com/resources/Documentos/ABC-English-White-Paper.pdf>
- “The Impact of Music on Language and Early Literacy”
<http://www.abcmusicandme.com/images/abc%20white%20paper.pdf>

IV. MAGIC = TELLING STORIES

- Language in memorable context: patterns and vocabulary are repeated naturally
- Captures learners’ attention and imagination
- Language and culture are interwoven
- Develops listening skills
- “Why Storytelling”
http://www.mlpsi.ie/index.php?option=com_mtree&task=att_download&link_id=1401&cf_id=24

V. MAGIC = SPEAKING AND UNDERSTANDING ANOTHER LANGUAGE

- Partnership between learners and teacher
- Meeting the criteria for strong thematic units (adapted from Dr. Helena Curtain)
 - Communicatively Purposeful: Building Towards Proficiency
 - Culturally Focused: Developing Interculturality
 - Intrinsically Interesting: Relevant to Learners
 - Cognitively Engaging: Requiring Critical Thinking Skills
 - Standards-Based: Reflecting Goals for Learning Languages
- “Going for 90% Plus: How to Stay in the Target Language” by Douglass Crouse (**The Language Educator**, October 2012).
http://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/TLE_pdf/TLE_Oct12_Article.pdf