



INNOVATIVE METHODS FOR TEACHING ELEMENTARY LEVEL STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

In this article, we discuss new and effective ways of teaching that can improve students' results. These plans usually aim to get students interested and involved. Students who are actively involved in their studies are less likely to miss class and more likely to do well in school.

Using new teaching methods doesn't always involve bringing in the newest technology to the classroom. Innovative teaching means using new and different ways to teach in class. We want to use new ways of teaching to make sure everyone can learn fairly and do better in school. Using creative ways to teach in the classroom means we know we can make our teaching better. When teachers want to improve the way they teach, they should think about how it can help their students do better. The aim of teaching is to help people learn. We use plans to help people learn better. Trying different ways of teaching in class is a process that helps us improve learning in a better way. There are many different ways to teach young kids. One teacher's method may not be good for another because they use different ways to reach the same educational goals. Many teachers try to combine different methods of teaching to make a unique one that suits the needs of their students and school. [1].

Montessori- This type of teaching is based on a methodology that's over 100 years old. Yet, it continues to offer a novel approach to creating a student-centered classroom. Today, the Montessori method is most popular in preschools, kindergartens, and lower elementary grades. In this method, the teacher prepares an ideal classroom environment full of activities that children may pick from to work on. Moreover, the teacher guides the children to ensure that they choose an adequate number of lessons from all of the subject areas. The Montessori method also encourages the use of "materials" or carefully curated objects designed for learning. For example, there are trays containing different types of triangles or cards with definitions explaining the parts of a bird. Furthermore, the Montessori method includes areas of the curriculum that teach social skills and practical life skills, such as cooking and cleaning.



Advantages: 1. Strong intrinsic motivation and a strong sense of responsibility are important qualities that the Montessori method strives to instill in students. Children often work independently and have their choice of what to work on and where to work in the classroom. 2. It creates a positive learning environment. The multi-age learning environment is unique and a key factor to this educational method. Younger children have a great opportunity to develop their social, communication, leadership, and emotional skills by working with older children. Older children also benefit from this approach. Disadvantages: 1. It can be expensive. For Montessori schools, it is very hard to keep their prices low. 2. Some teachers and students may find it difficult to get used to the looseness of the curriculum compared to familiar methods of teaching. It's important to keep that in mind before deciding to incorporate some ideas of Montessori or even implement it into teaching[2].

Personalized Learning- [Personalized learning](#) adapts what, when, and how we are teaching each student. Instead of selecting a singular method or strategy to teach the whole class, teachers adapt to the strengths of each student to help them succeed. The personalized learning experience is like how we experience different online tools where algorithms tailor our online experiences to meet our interests. When you go to one site, you may see certain content float to the top where I will see something different based on my viewing history or searches. Personalized learning provides a catered learning experience and methods that are optimized for individual students. Though these individualized learning journeys are different for each student, the end goal is subject mastery or meeting standards for their grade level. So, we can think of these as different paths leading to the same place.

Project-Based Learning (PBL) - [Project-based learning](#) is an effective method that helps students drive their own learning journey. In a PBL exercise, students identify a real-world problem then develop a solution. Project-based learning relies on developing key skill sets such as research, critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration. Project-based learning is an active method of learning where students gain mastery through the application of their knowledge rather than rote memorization. Like the flipped classroom, the teacher's role becomes that of a guide and the students take ownership of their learning.

Inquiry-Based Learning- [Inquiry-based learning](#) develops thinking and problem-solving skills. Instead of driving the class through a lecture-style format, the teacher poses questions, scenarios, and problems. Students then research these topics individually or in groups to formulate their answers. They can then present their findings and supporting evidence to the class along with the other students. Students are then able to further develop their answers by listening to what other students have found as well as identifying areas that require more attention and detail.

Jigsaws- Jigsaws are another active learning method. Most importantly, jigsaws introduce the opportunity for students to teach other students. And, as Seneca said, "While we teach, we learn." Explaining something to someone is often considered the best way to truly understand it (the [protégé effect](#)). With jigsaws, students are divided into groups and given different pieces of information. Students in each group are then tasked with learning the information enough to be able to explain it to someone else. The students are then assigned to



different groups where they explain their information to the other members. They complete this process until each group has the full picture of information to complete the puzzle.

Ask Open-Ended Questions- Students, especially successful students, may rely too heavily on textbook answers. They may develop over time the tendency to think there are only right and wrong answers. But most questions don't have right or wrong answers. In today's divisive public sphere, students need to exercise conversational skills and empathy. Students need to learn to communicate and collaborate. By asking open-ended questions, teachers encourage vibrant in-class conversations. Students can piece together different information learned or experienced in their life to stitch together cohesive points. This can encourage students to not only find their voice but express themselves as well.

Peer Teaching- As we mentioned when discussing jigsaws, students exhibit mastery when they explain or teach others. Have students choose an area of interest within the scope of the subject being taught. Provide them with the opportunity to independently research the topic and create a presentation on it. Set aside class time for students to present to the class to teach their peers about their topic. With peer teaching, students learn skills such as independent study, presentation skills, and confidence.

Blended Learning- Blended learning combines physical and online learning experiences that give students more control over the time, place, path, and pace of instruction. Check out our previous post on [blended learning](#) to learn all you need to know. What's exciting about blended learning is that it provides traditional classroom experiences as well as online tools and learning opportunities. It's not an all-or-nothing method. Still, technology is a key component of blended learning as it is for students in the real world. The flexibility of blended learning enables students to have more control over their learning methods – perhaps they'll watch online lectures at home and engage in peer groups for collaborative activities or maybe they'll prefer to join lecture-based virtual classes and do their homework independently.

Feedback- Feedback is incredibly important. Students need to learn how to offer constructive feedback as well as accept feedback. Provide students with a mechanism for providing feedback. In a [virtual classroom](#), feedback tools like polling or emojis are a great way for quick feedback cycles. You can even challenge or ask students to expand upon their feedback then ask other students with opposing opinions to discuss why they think differently.

Active Learning- Many of the innovative learning strategies we discussed are active learning strategies. [Active learning](#) methods encourage students to discuss, contribute, participate, investigate, and create. Active learning challenges students by questioning them, requiring problem-solving and critical thinking. Most importantly, active learning engages students and requires them to be active in the classroom. Students that participate in their learning are more likely to succeed in your class[3].

We use these methods to encourage creativity and achievement in school. Change is important, but sometimes we might make mistakes or have problems adjusting to it. It's fine to make mistakes and not succeed. We teach our students that it's important to try, and it's okay to not succeed on the first try. Failing is alright if we learn from it and give it another shot. Although these tactics might feel like we're making significant changes, we don't need to use them for our entire teaching method. Think about how you can use one thing or another



thing for a certain class. Some subjects are better suited to learning through projects, while others can be learned by asking open questions. Pay attention and stay alert. Lots of teachers are on this journey with you. You can find great ideas on the internet to help with your classroom experiments. Experiment with new tools like making recorded videos or joining virtual classrooms if they are useful for exploring the digital world. You can ask your students to make their own videos to teach other students. Since students often make videos with their friends, we can use their enthusiasm in a positive way for learning. When we create new things, we become better. Try it out, being in the classroom is always exciting. Many teachers are trying new and exciting ways of teaching to help students overcome their challenges. By using new and creative ways of teaching, students can learn better and more efficiently. Try different methods in teaching to help students learn and grow better. This will happen over time, and teachers will keep trying until they find a helpful method. [4].

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