

## Examples of general guidelines for introducing a new topic and raising language awareness

*'A child's awareness of language grows intuitively.'*

Throughout the course, children will be encouraged to become *language detectives*, to actively look for similarities and differences between words and structures, pronunciation and punctuation, and to begin to transfer skills between languages.

- Introduce the new topic vocabulary using the flashcards and other materials.
- Encourage assimilation and use of the new vocabulary using the conversations, songs and exercises in the *Lesson Sheets*.
- Provide for differentiation and extension by using the *Additional Sheets* and the *Extension Sheets*. These latter support cross-curricular activities.
- Encourage use of the *Memory-maps* in conjunction with the *Activity Cards* (which accompany the book *Mil Unuaj Vortoj*) to revise key vocabulary and structures.
- Take opportunities to draw comparisons with Standard English, for example: subject – verb agreements and use of preposition in standard English/verb – object agreement in Esperanto. Refer to the etymology of words.
- Teach children techniques for memorising words and phrases and how to use context and other clues (visual) to interpret meaning.
- Children should be taught the interrelationship of sounds, letters and words and how grammar has a bearing on the construction of a sentence. They should be taught to apply rules correctly and encouraged to use their knowledge of the language in creative and imaginative ways. The aim should be to communicate meaning, and in this children should use the language for real purposes.
- Accept, and actively encourage, all comments from children who speak a different first language to contribute 'information' about their own languages. Children should be taught to appreciate the range of national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the UK.
- Be prepared with basic information about each country: geographical position, flag, preferred name, main rivers and mountains, capital etc.
- Talk about other countries and cultures and ensure, as far as possible, that children are working with authentic materials. They should be encouraged to consider their own culture and to make comparisons, whilst learning to respect the differences and similarities between people. They should consider the experiences of other people as being equally valuable to their own and recognise how their behaviour affects other people, using their imagination to understand other people's experiences, if necessary. At all times children should be encouraged to listen to others and to work and play amicably and cooperatively whilst feeling positively about themselves and their achievements.
- Children should be encouraged to take an active part in discussions on inter-cultural topics and topics of a global nature and to reflect on these. To broaden their experience it would be useful to encourage them to meet and talk with people from abroad and from other cultures...