

Get Ready: English Camp, Here We Come!

Written by: Rachel Hadley
Daei Elementary School

By now most of you have probably already heard the news—we have to teach English camps. I admit at first I freaked out too. I had not had a lot of prior teaching experience. Even after an informational orientation, planning and implementing a 40-minute lesson was all still overwhelming. Now I needed to organize English camp! Take heart! It is not as bad as it sounds. In fact, I have found English camps to be some of the most exciting and rewarding times with my students.

I won't lie. Camps take a lot of preparation to be successful. Every school will be different with time, length, and requirements for their camp. It is best to begin speaking with your co-teacher early. Next, find out the dates, student ages, and time for the camp. Then, ask if your camp has a budget. I usually start planning about a month before camp starts. This ensures plenty of time to plan, gather needed materials, and finalize before the big first day.

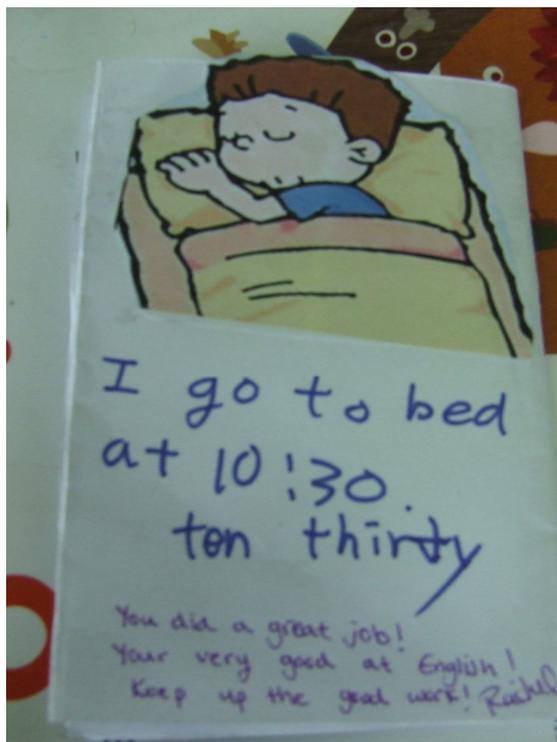
Students are usually excited for English camp and as teachers we want to ensure a fun program and high-quality reputation. This means we need to plan meaningful and educational activities that are engaging and exciting at the same time. Think of what you would want to do if you were going to camp. Creating a theme for camp is a great place to start. You can choose one theme for the whole camp, a different theme for each week, or even a different theme everyday. Themes help your planning process and give your camp organization. It also helps students know what the camp will be about and is a great motivator for the students.

After the theme is chosen, the next step is to make an outline. I make an outline with the number of hours for each teaching day. I then write the lesson title, objectives, supplies, and materials for each lesson. Developmentally appropriate hands-on activities are crucial for acquiring English. Some good ideas include crafts, cooking, scavenger hunts, English games, contests, and roll-plays. Don't be shy to incorporate movies, stories, songs, dances, riddles, skits, and art. Take students outside to learn, or plan a small fieldtrip.

Have fun with your students and they will have fun too. English camp is a time to teach, but also to bond and get to know your students better. An engaging and meaningful English camp will result in increased student confidence and English growth. Through proper planning and organization you can have a rewarding and memorable camp.



🕒 Making a mini-book



🕒 A mini-book sample



🕒 Reading mini-books

