

Teaching Young Learners: The Importance of voice

Michael Fennell

Arab American University Jenin/ Jenin, Palestine

Key words: Young Learners Voice Chant

ABSTRACT

This workshop will look at the importance of voice in teaching young learners. It is based on an actual lesson given to fourth year students on a Teaching Young Learners course. It will take as its premise a quote from a British voice coach: "Everyone comes into this world with a beautiful voice but then it becomes blocked. The natural voice wants to come through but it gets stopped by the habitual voice." Participants will be led through a series of drama techniques which focus on the voice (taken from Maley and Duff 2009). These will then be applied to a children's chant. After which the participants will be asked to incorporate the chant into a lesson plan. The feedback discussion will focus on the appropriacy of using the activities both in training teachers and in teaching young learners.