

# The 2nd International / the 6th National Conference

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## Teaching English Through Creative Games

(young learners)

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Abstract:

If you want to find out more about teaching young learners, if you want get some good tips and tricks, and if you want to discover the world of creative games through theory and a lot of practice, join us at my talk entitled: **Teaching English Through Creative Games.**

Why are the games so important especially nowadays?

Which subjects should be combined in teaching young ESL learners and how?

What is my experience from the classroom and which games played there have shown the best results?

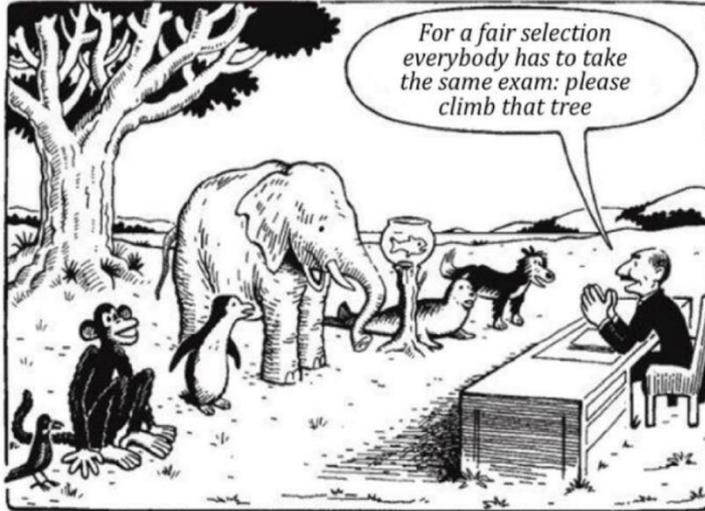
How the children responded?

These are just some of the questions that will be answered in this talk. I took photos in my classroom in order to provide real examples and I hope you will like it.

Please feel free to join this creative, fun, engaging and practical experience talk.

The key role for developing children's cognitive and motor skills belong first to **parents** and then to **teachers** (kindergarten, elementary school, etc.)

## Traditional education



## Our Education System

*"Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid."*

*- Albert Einstein*

*21<sup>st</sup> century education encourages these competencies:*

- **Creativity**
- **Problem-solving**
- **Critical thinking**
- **Digital literacy, collaboration...**

It's an **education** that sets children up to succeed in a world where more than half of the jobs they'll have over their careers don't even exist yet.

# What is **NTC learning system**?

This abbreviation NTC stands for “Nikola Tesla center”-Mensa’s department for talented and gifted children. Why is it so important? What do they promote?

NTC learning system is focused on **brain**, its capacities and abilities and they teach **educators** (both parents and teachers) how to stimulate child's brain in order to form as many synapses (connections between neurons (brain cells)) in the brain as possible.

Child’s IQ development should be our biggest concern, and it should be stimulated in the right way, especially at early age (from 2-7 years).

How?

Simply by letting kids to:

## JUMP



## SPIN



## RUN



(The **first** stage at early age also includes fine motoric skills). The **second** phase includes thought classifications and associations and the **third** one includes functional knowledge. These are the most important skills of this programme, but there are even more in every phase.

“Today, the NTC Program has been implemented in **17** European countries; in 7 it has been accredited by the Ministry of Education (Serbia, Slovenia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Montenegro, Macedonia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina), while in others (Italy, Greece, Sweden, Iceland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Slovakia and Sierra Leone) is being conducted in collaboration with educational institutions.”

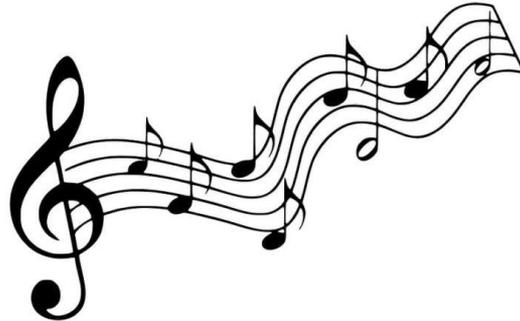
# Teaching English at young age:

The best result we shall achieve by combining the following subjects while teaching English:

**PE** (Physical Education)



**Music**



**Art**



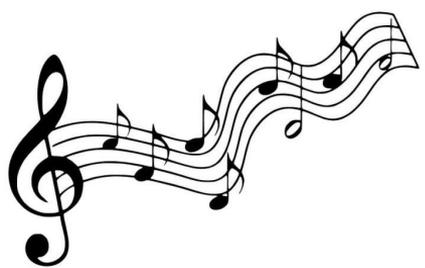
# Examples/Experience from the classroom:

**1. Christmas song: TPR (Total Physical Response)-** chant is combined with movements and that is the best way to:

- Stimulate brain development through movement
- Remember and later revise easily new words through a chant
- relax shy learners and encourage them to express themselves by dancing and singing in a group i.e.eliminates lack of self confidence



Combination of : English+PE+Music



## Teaching colours:

### 2. **Action** story- teaching primary colours:

Teacher reads any type of story that contains colours. When kids hear a colour they raise their hand immediately:



E.g. Once upon a time, there was a girl Ksenija. She had a wonderful **red** dress and a **yellow** headband. She had a brother Vukan, who had a **blue** T-shirt and dark **blue** trousers... Their pet was a dog, Bobi . Its tail was **black** and his eyes were **black**, too. They all lived in a house with a **red** roof and *white* walls...

### 3. Teaching **secondary** colours: (mixing colours lessons)

Showing **posters**  
on the blackboard:



Chemical **experiment**: Mixing liquid  
colours in glass jars:



**4. Using clay:** Mixing different clay colours to see what is going to happen after a few seconds:

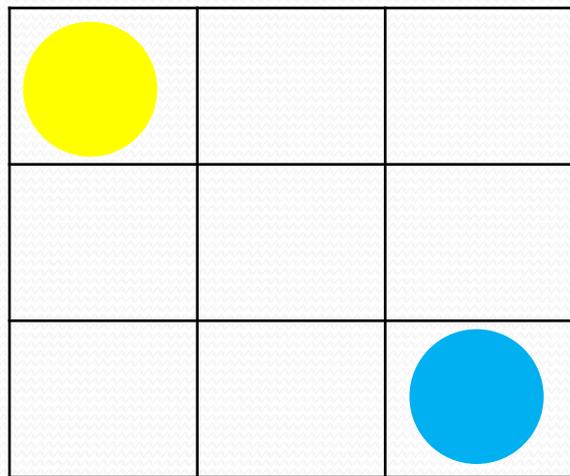


This game develops their **motor** skills, and the “surprise” moment is always a great fun.

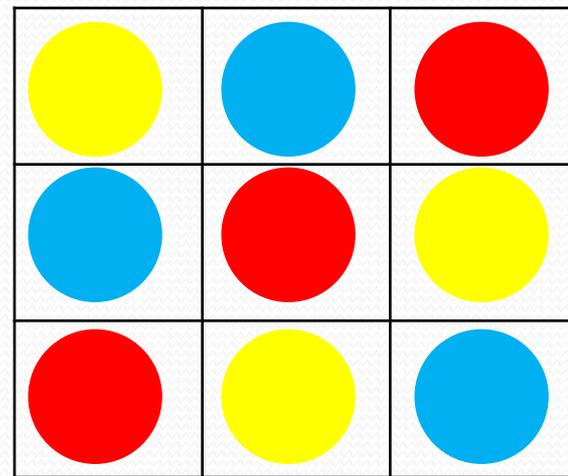
## 5. Sudoku: is a logic-based, combinatorial number-placement puzzle

Instead of numbers I decided to switch numbers with colours. We used magnetic blackboard, hand drawn grid and plastic magnets in 3 colours. If your students are older give them more demanding grid and colour, pictures, number combinations...It is up to your imagination.

Sudoku → numbers → **coloured magnets**

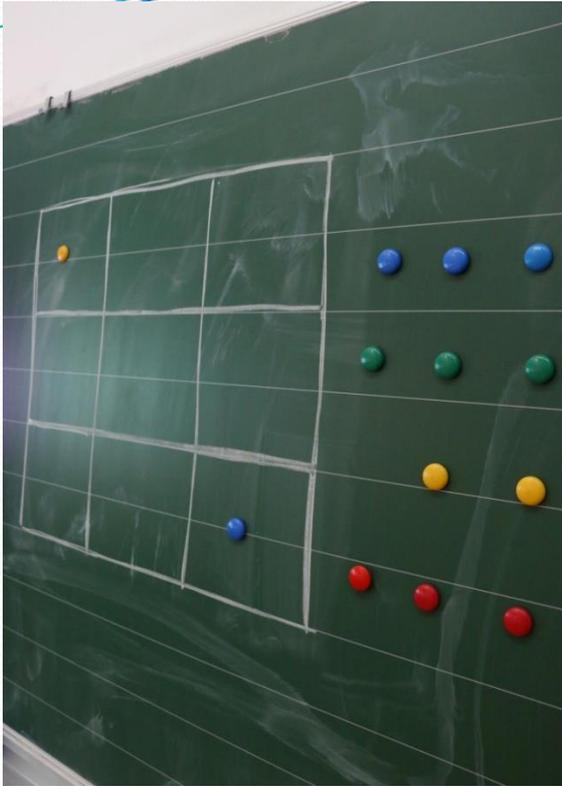


**START**



**FINISH**

How it looks like in the classroom:



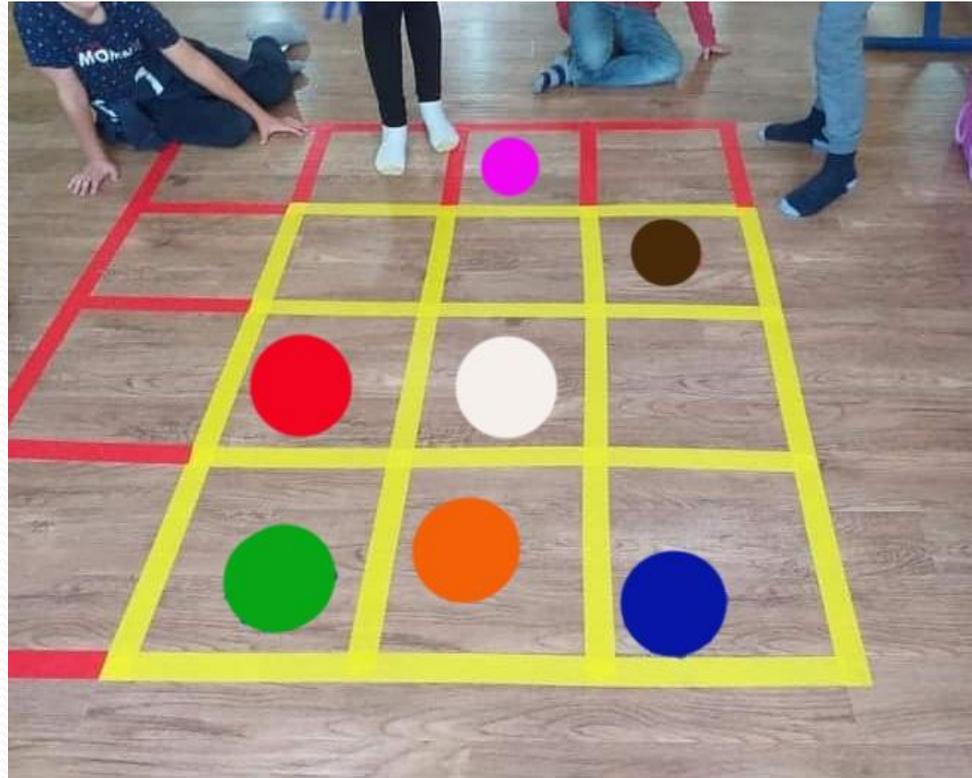
Student Ljubica has chosen her colour combination (blue, yellow and red) and played the game successfully.

Students are given 4 colours to choose from, and they have been asked: Do you want a blue colour?, if the reply is “Yes” then we write a tick next to the chosen magnet colour. One colour should be excluded, and the reply have to be “No”. By revising colours in this way kids are fully involved in the game and they improve their logical thinking. The older students the more complicated grid should be given.

## 6. Hop-hop game : Revising **colours** and classroom objects:

Necessary equipment: masking **tape** and coloured sticky **papers** for circles.

Students choose their starting position, stand on one leg, jump on the closest circle and say one classroom object in the colour of the circle bellow their foot. If they guess, then they are allowed to stand on both legs to relax a little bit. They choose the order they jumb, and the goal is to use all colours. The **yellow** grid is more suitable for younger learners, and the extended part for older ones.



# Summary:

- Teaching English is becoming more and more demanding and challenging because kids nowadays know a lot and on the other hand they live in a century of computers, iphones and social media networks which can impact their brain development in negative ways if used inappropriately.
- By having in mind that traditional educational system should be replaced with new approaches where kids will be actively involved in teaching process, both physically and mentally forces a teacher to develop and work on new teaching methods and skills.
- By combining English language lessons with other subjects such as PE, Music and Art have long term benefits for young learners. The young brain exposed to a new language through movements, music and art will become brilliant not only in English but in other subjects as well.

## Resources:

- 1.NTC system: Link: <http://ntclearning.com/>
2. Colour palette: [https://gallery.yopriceville.com/Free-Clipart-Pictures/School-Clipart/Artist\\_Palette\\_PNG\\_Clip\\_Art\\_Image#.YCc0\\_I9Kjcs](https://gallery.yopriceville.com/Free-Clipart-Pictures/School-Clipart/Artist_Palette_PNG_Clip_Art_Image#.YCc0_I9Kjcs)
3. Music notes: <https://www.aisd.net/bailey-junior-high/campus-news/2020/03/06/great-job-bailey-orchestra/attachment/illustration-of-music-notes-and-notation/>
4. PE image: <https://www.dreamstime.com/stock-photo-doodle-happy-kids-group-isolated-white-image26388140>
5. Kids in the clasroom [yandex.ru](http://yandex.ru)
- 6.Boys and girls running: <https://www.vectorstock.com/royalty-free-vector/boys-and-girls-running-vector-18009521>
- 7.Girl spinning around: <https://www.dreamstime.com/soccer-stuff-image182700502>



**Thank you so much for participating!!!**