

Miroslava Lemešová & Lenka Sokolová

TEACHING PSYCHOLOGY TO YOUNG CHILDREN: TIPS AND ACTIVITIES

PSYCHOLOGY FOR CHILDREN UNDER 15



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT SUBJECTS

usually not called "psychology", available in many countries from pre-school level of education, useful for developing mental health and life skills

ACADEMIC SUBJECTS

available only in some countries, useful pre-requisite for 16+ psychology courses, however, it might be difficult to teach abstract psychological concepts to younger learners

TEACHING OF PSYCHOLOGY IN SLOVAKIA:

Basics of psychology are included as a part of compulsory academic school subject called „Citizenship education“ for 12-year old pupils.

Course content:

- introductory psychology (sensation, perception and imagination, memory and cognition, emotions, learning and learning styles),
- personality and interindividual differences,
- social psychology (groups, socialization, relationships, sociometry),
- application of psychology to every-day life (communication, cooperation, solving conflicts...)

In higher secondary education psychology is taught as a part of social studies, as an optional academic subject or as a vocational subject.



TEACHING TIPS AND ACTIVITIES

GAMIFICATION: ONLINE APPS

USE ONLINE GAME-BASED PLATFORMS TO GET LEARNERS FAMILIAR WITH PSYCHOLOGICAL TERMINOLOGY, E.G.:

WWW.TOGLIC.COM
WWW.SOCRATIVE.COM
WWW.KAHOOT.COM
WWW.MENTIMETER.COM ETC.



VISUAL LEARNING:

USE VISUAL IMAGES TO PRESENT ABSTRACT PSYCHOLOGICAL CONCEPTS. VISUAL SYMBOLS, FLASH CARDS OR MINDMAPS MAY HELP LEARNERS TO NAVIGATE THROUGH COMPLEX TERMINOLOGY OF PSYCHOLOGICAL THEORY.

GAMIFICATION: BOARD GAMES

USE COMMON BOARD GAMES TO SHOW LEARNERS HOW OUR MENTAL PROCESSES WORK IN THEIR EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES, E.G.: MEMORY GAME, DOBBLE, MIMIQ, STORY CUBES, BINGO...

OR CREATE YOUR OWN VERSION OF THESE GAMES USING PSYCHOLOGICAL TERMINOLOGY.

RESEARCH PROJECTS:

USE SIMPLIFIED RESEARCH PROJECTS TO DEVELOP CRITICAL THINKING AND HELP LEARNERS TO UNDERSTAND HOW PSYCHOLOGISTS WORK, E. G.: BEHAVIOUR OBSERVATION, MEMORY, PERCEPTION OR ATTENTION EXPERIMENTS, LEARNING HABITS QUESTIONNAIRES, SOCIOMETRY ETC.

WORKSHOP PRESENTED AT EFPTA CONFERENCE 2018:
PSYCHOLOGY FOR EVERYONE
13TH -14TH APRIL, 2018, REYKJAVÍK, ICELAND

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS DISCUSSED THEIR EXPERIENCES FROM THE TEACHING OF PSYCHOLOGY TO YOUNG LEARNERS AND WERE PROVIDED WITH THE EXAMPLES OF TEACHING MATERIALS USED IN SLOVAKIA.

