

Giving Culture Talks

One of the interesting things about the TEYL courses is that the students are given the opportunity to observe a class in a nearby primary school. Later in the course they revisit the school to give a culture talk. The first time the present TEYL group visited the local school, the children were learning about Japan. What a coincidence! The children were also going to make sushi after their break, so the IIEL staff and students could help and advise 😊

Last Friday the TEYL group presented a culture talk to a year 6 class (10-11 years old). The talk consisted of three activities- a quiz, learning some Japanese and making something using origami. The quiz involved the children guessing how many Japanese products are part of the UK way of life. I didn't realise uni-ball pens were Japanese and I use them all the time.

The TEYL group wanted to teach the children how to count from one to ten in Japanese. This was a fun activity and involved illustrations, together with a teaching technique known as 'total physical response' (TPR). This is a very useful technique for teaching young learners.

You can find information about TPR here https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Total_physical_response or watch a video here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkMQXFOqyQA>

Finally, the TEYL group gave the children some square-shaped paper and asked them to follow the instructions to make something using origami. The children weren't told what the object would be until the end. It was a balloon and they were very surprised when the paper was inflated. One of the children said, 'Cool!', so they must have been impressed.

The input sessions for the present TEYL course have finished and all that remains now is the practical sessions of teaching practice. I have enjoyed this course and am looking forward to leading the next one in late April.