

Project Title: Catering the needs of diverse learners using interactive dialogue and creative literacy activities in English language education	Project Number: 2013/0307
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Name of Organisation: Department of Applied Social Sciences, City University of Hong Kong

(1) Goals:

- (i) To develop effective and innovative instructional methods which allow children with diverse levels of ability to learn English together with joy and interest, instead of studying it by rote memorization.
- (ii) To strengthen teachers' techniques in countering the challenges of teaching children with great individual differences.
- (iii) To nurture Hong Kong primary school students for becoming motivated and lifelong learners.

Objectives:

- (i) To cater for students' differential abilities and needs in English learning using interactive dialogue and creative literacy activities.
- (ii) To equip teachers with effective instructional methods in teaching English to diverse learners.
- (iii) To enhance English proficiency and creativity, promote interest in learning and active English use in classroom, in students with diverse levels of ability.

- (2) Targets:** *Immediate beneficiaries:* i) This project includes about 500 students (250 P.1 students; 250 P.4 students) and their teachers from 4 primary schools; ii) All teachers and students from these schools will be the immediate beneficiaries after the program implementation (around 2,850 students and 190 teachers). *Long term beneficiaries:* The instructional methods will be useful to educators in local schools, education students and the general public.

(3) Implementation Plan:

- (i) **Duration:** 33 months; it will commence on 1 Feb 2015 and will finish on 30 Nov 2017

- (ii) **Process / Schedule:** In the project period, we seek to accomplish the following:

- 1) Prepare materials for interactive dialogue and creative activities
- 2) Train teachers to use interactive dialogue techniques and creative activities in class
- 3) Pretest children on English skills and creativity
- 4) 12-week teaching program
- 5) Posttest children on English skills and creativity; obtain teachers' feedback
- 6) Analyze the data with statistical packages and draw conclusions
- 7) Create a website and produce 500 copies of manual
- 8) Hold public seminars

- (iii) **Collaboration with other parties / partners:** Four primary schools in Hong Kong have agreed to participate, including S.K.H. Kei Oi Primary School, P.L.K. Wong Wing Shu Primary School, C.C.C. Kei Chun Primary School, and T.W.G.Hs. Tang Shiu Kin Primary School.

(4) Products:

- (i) **Deliverables / outcomes:** 500 copies of manual, a website, and 2–3 newspaper or journal publications on the topic of Hong Kong children's English learning and creativity development. The manual and website contain detailed guidelines on practical use of interactive dialogue and creative activities that local schools could employ.

- (ii) **Dissemination of deliverables / outcomes:** The website will be made available to all primary schools and the general public. Also, the manuals will be distributed to interested teachers and education students. Public seminars will be held. In addition, two to three newspaper or journal articles will be published.

- (iii) **Commercialization potential of deliverables / outcomes:** After the project period, the manuals developed from this project will be attractive products for commercialization to the general public.

(5) Budget:

The total cost of this research is \$1,419,700, including \$899,450 in staff cost, \$253,191 in services, \$13,000 in equipment, \$238,909 in general expenses, and \$15,150 in contingency.

(6) Evaluation:

- (i) **Performance indicators:** The students' performance on English and creativity tests and teachers' feedback are performance indicators. The benchmarks will be interactive dialogue and creative activities are effective in enhancing children's reading interest, English skills and creativity.

- (ii) **Outcome measurements:** This project adopts an experimental intervention. To obtain baseline data, all participating children will be individually tested on English skills and creativity before the intervention (pretesting). Teachers and their students will then engage in a 12-week intervention. Children will be individually tested on the same tasks after the intervention (posttesting). The children's performance in pretest and posttest will be compared, and teachers' feedback will also be collected to indicate the success of this program.