



Playful minds, powerful learning: Play-based pedagogy in ELT

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Step into a classroom where curiosity leads, creativity thrives, and language learning becomes an adventure. This immersive, hands-on workshop invites you to reimagine your ELT classroom as a dynamic, playful space—one where learning is driven by engagement, collaboration, and joy.

Across five energizing sessions, you'll explore how different types of play—competitive, constructive, role-based, rule-based, and imaginative—can transform language development for teens and young adults. From LEGO storytelling and improvisational drama to student-designed games and creative writing with physical prompts, you'll engage in a wide range of experiential activities designed to spark both inspiration and practical application.

By the end of your week, you'll leave with a toolkit of adaptable, student-centred techniques and activities that empower learners to take ownership of their language journey—while having fun along the way. Whether you're new to playful learning or looking to deepen your practice, this workshop will reignite your classroom with motivation, meaning, and a sense of wonder.

<p>Session 1 Monday</p>	<p>The Power of Play in Language Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discover the Play Challenge • Explore the Play Wheel: key types and purposes of play • Reflect on your own teaching context: Where does play fit now—and where could it? • Create a visual collage: “What Play Means in My Classroom”
<p>Session 2 Tuesday</p>	<p>Competitive Play: Fuelling Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dive into fast, low-prep, high impact games to reinforce vocabulary and grammar • Design student-led pair and group games • Reflect on motivation, risk-taking, and the positive power of competition
<p>Session 3 Wednesday</p>	<p>Constructive Play and Storytelling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use LEGO and other physical materials to co-create stories and boost writing skills • The key elements of an engaging story • How to make writing inclusive and accessible through multisensory input
<p>Session 4 Thursday</p>	<p>From Reading Texts to Performance: Role Play and Speaking Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using texts as springboards for interviews and dramatic scenes • Building improvisation, critical thinking and creativity skills
<p>Session 5 Friday</p>	<p>Designing Creative and Personalised Learning Environments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using mobile phones and film clips to personalise language use • Building students' confidence and fluency through fantasy play • Presenting your collages and sharing your reflections on play learning • Wrap-up discussion: sustaining play beyond the workshop

Please note: This course schedule is intended to give an overview of the topics to be covered in each session; however, it may be liable to change at the tutor's discretion.

Further reading (No pre-reading required)

- LEGO Foundation (2022). *Learning Through Play: A Review of the Evidence*. [White Paper PDF](#)
- Learning Through Play Web Guide (2024): [Download PDF](#)
- Handel et al. (2023). *PlayLab Seen Through the Eyes of Educators*. [PDF](#)

Relevant links

- [Learning Through Play \(LEGO Foundation\)](#)
- [National Institute for Play](#)
- [UNICEF & LEGO Foundation Report](#)