

CAMBRIDGE

ENGLISH FOR LIFE

Feb - March 2006

ENGLISH MASTERY AT CEFL

Another New Year and once again parents will be looking for tutorial centres to complement their children's studies at school. One of the most important areas to consider is the need to equip children with a better command of English, leading to mastery of the language.

The importance of learning English cannot be over-emphasised. Acquiring proficiency in English at an early stage opens up much wider horizons for children and offers them options at school and college, at work and at play which without a good standard of English they would lack.

One of the undesirable side effects of the decline in English language proficiency amongst Malaysian school children is the all too evident general knowledge gap between children today and those of previous generations and also their contemporaries in the developed world. Ask any child today what would have been regarded as a simple question 30 years ago, in geography perhaps or history and what you are likely to get is a great big Duh? Those who are confident in speaking and

reading English will inevitably broaden their knowledge and be better prepared to make informed decisions about their futures on their own.

The question that parents must answer is: what is the best

way to achieve this very desirable outcome? Setting a goal, in education especially, is not a mandate or a command. We cannot set fixed limits on time, putting educators in a strait jacket and limiting the extent to which teachers can do what is best for each individual student. The focus

should be on the needs of the student, not some arbitrary time frame. Goals should have built in flexibility.

They should also have accountability. And language schools which offer flexibility and accountability in their programmes are going to be the ones which provide the best chance of success. Children must be assessed and tested periodically for English proficiency and steps taken to assist the child who is not achieving the level of progress necessary to meet the goals that have been set.

The key to achieving mastery of English is a result oriented, consistent and systematic teaching methodology, a tried, tested and proven curriculum and a team of well trained teachers.



MATHS IS FUN AT

CAMBRIDGE MATHS FOR LIFE

Any teacher will tell you that the easiest students to teach are those who have an interest in a subject. But it is not always easy to develop children's interest, especially in what tend to be regarded as academic subjects, like maths.

It was always thought, and still is in some circles, that to teach maths effectively to young children, it is necessary to drill the basic requirements into them. Provided they could add, subtract, multiply and divide, success in maths was assured. With some children, that's the way to do it; but with most, something extra is needed to develop the necessary skills and at the same time create the interest which makes the teaching, and the learning, easier and more productive.



Inculcating a love for, or at least an interest in, a 'school' subject is a challenge for any teaching establishment. There are certain pre-requisites which need to be in place, before any serious attempt can be made to meet that challenge.

Firstly, children's learning needs should be matched to whatever programme they are to embark on. This means they should be comfortable with the targets that are set for them and, though challenged, they should not be over-stressed – a sure fire way to lose their interest.

Next, the programme has to have relevance to the child. It's pointless asking children about the price of, say, a car or perhaps a house. These items and the figures involved strike no chord with a child. Tasks must mean something to the child. So, bikes, rather than cars, and ice creams, rather than houses.

And then there must be teacher who is able to deliver. Not just deliver the material, but deliver the interest, transmit the love.

At Cambridge Maths For Life (CMFL), we have systemised a programme which offers these three pre-requisites in a flexible maths programme for young learners from 5 – 12 years of age.

As well as preparing the children for a University of Cambridge International Examinations Assessment, the CMFL programme has the objective of providing an enjoyable learning process, thereby developing the young students' interest in maths.

To begin with, there is an aptitude test which is used to place the children at a level appropriate to their needs. At each level, from Reception to Level 6, there is a rich variety of activities which offer a lively and rewarding experience for young children. The thematic lessons are easy to learn and fun, using activities that are relevant to the children and teaching concepts which are patently practical.

The CMFL programme is organised in three strands: numbers and the number system, calculations and measures, shapes and handling data. And these three strands are identical with those incorporated in the National schools' syllabus, so that there is no conflict between what children learn in the CMFL programme and what they are being taught in school.



Taught by a cadre of teachers who both love their subject and, even more, the joy of encouraging young minds to share that love, the CMFL programme helps children master maths effectively.

Built on a structured play-based theme, the programme aims to foster learning through discovery. Listening, concentrating and speaking are given emphasis. A further objective of the programme is to achieve a higher level of familiarity with mathematical terms in English and in the process increase the learners' fluency in English itself.



The ability to use English effectively, combined with strong skills in mathematics, will inevitably broaden the range of opportunities for all learners. And if children are not to fall behind in their studies it is important that they should be given every chance both to increase their fluency in English and to understand maths, through developing an interest in the subject, which may with proper guidance grow into love.

**Cambridge Maths for Life centres are now located throughout the Klang Valley.
For details please call Keith Harris or Sharon at 7710 8916.**

CEFL – YOUR CENTRE OF CHOICE



Cambridge English For Life (CEFL), whose centres can be found in most parts of Malaysia, is well placed to meet the requirements of most English language students. As an authorised

centre for the University of Cambridge ESOL examinations with 10 years experience of conducting the examinations, CEFL offers English language courses for children of all ages and for adults to prepare them for the Cambridge exams, and has now trained over 5000 students nationwide.

CEFL uses the communicative approach to learning. Classes are small and interactive so that learning is an enjoyable experience and also teachers have the opportunity to address the needs of individual students. Students look forward to their classes at CEFL partly because they are fun but also because they are introduced to a wide range of both literary and cultural knowledge which they seldom encounter at school. And it is generally the case that students who thrive at CEFL will also achieve better marks in their school exams.

CEFL's teachers are all qualified teachers who are trained in the CEFL method and bring their enhanced skills to the classroom. They monitor the performance of their students and keep them and parents/sponsors in touch with developments as their courses progress.

The ESOL exams at the end of each course provide students with benchmarked external qualifications which at the highest levels satisfy the English language entrance requirements of colleges and universities worldwide. And CEFL's track record in the examinations has shown a passing rate consistently higher than the international average.

But perhaps the most telling testimony of CEFL's success comes from our parents like Mr Chan Chee Keong who has two children with CEFL: "I believe I've made the right choice by sending my children to CEFL and I believe the school has done a lot of things for my children which have made a lot of difference to me and my family". Or Mr Fam Lee Ee: "I think English is a very important language to learn so I enrolled my two children at CEFL and they are doing very well. Before every class, they are always very excited, looking forward to their classes."



For more information on CEFL courses,
please call Sharon or Keith on

03 77108916,

visit any of our centres or the CEFL website at

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