

Enjoy writing this holiday

MANY parents will be casting a nervous eye towards the calendar in the next week or so (if they haven't already started) and worry about how to keep their children occupied during the school holidays.

Some may opt for American-style residential education boot camps; one parent invested RM20,000 in a study trip to Germany for her daughter.

The former can be quite expensive and while the latter may be a fantastic cultural experience I do wonder how useful it will prove to be, with minimal opportunities for language practice when the student returns.

If you are looking for something to occupy your children that is practical, useful, closer to home and decidedly more affordable, then why not consider one of the Holiday Programmes offered by Cambridge English for Life.

There are three programmes currently available at CEFL centres nationwide, covering Writing and Speech and Drama. The courses are suitable for students aged between five and 16. So whether you are in Penang, Ipoh, Subang or Kepong there will be something to educate and entertain your children during the holidays.

Interactive Writing

The Interactive Writing programme, for five- to 12-year-olds, is designed to help children understand the relationship between reading and writing and allow them to experience these as meaningful activities rather than as a purely academic exercise.

The focus in these sessions is for students to 'write to learn' rather than to 'learn to write.' Students will be actively involved in creating their own texts and learn to experiment with some of the key features of story-making such as planning, sequencing, beginnings and endings and how to describe detail.

Among the key benefits of this course is that students are encouraged to write, even if their language ability is limited, by using videos, pictures, story-books and songs.

Creative Writing

This course has the aim of giving learners in the 13+ age group a different writing experience as its central objective. Many young people view writing as a dull and arduous task that has to be undertaken in order to complete coursework or examinations.

This course will seek to dispel that myth by showing students that writing need not only be about answering questions or elaborating on specific topics; it can also be fun, creative and empowering.

Students will learn the tools of story writing and will gain the confidence to overcome the internal voice telling them that

they can't write creatively or that they have nothing to say – the internal censor.

Speech and Drama

Studies have shown that many young children benefit positively from speech and drama classes as they find themselves able to express themselves without being self-conscious or worried about saying the wrong thing.

All children pretend almost daily during their play and during these classes will be able to develop and absorb dramatic experience as there is no pressure on them to perform.

The topics within this Speech and Drama programme designed for five to 12 year olds, focus on the process of learning creative drama skills rather than on producing perfect performances.

As a result, lessons are fun-filled explorations that will challenge the creative abilities of students along with helping to develop their coordination, teamwork and problem-solving skills.

The programme will include:

- * Mime – the basics, physical actions, expressions, animals and objects;
- * Reading – applying movement and sound to stories and nursery rhymes;
- * Singing – correct breathing and singing with movement;
- * Talk – students will share about their lives with a 'show and tell' session;
- * Drama – bringing story book scenes to life;
- * Improvisation – performing impromptu scenes;
- * Readers Theatre – using their voices to bring characters to life while reading from a script.

Each programme runs for five days, four hours per day

New Year for English

For parents looking to give their children a head start in mastering the English language, CEFL are now taking registrations at all centres for the next academic year commencing January 2012.

Cambridge English for Life provides high quality, practical, vocational and professional English language training. They offer courses for both junior and secondary level students.

All materials are original and sourced from the UK. They are specifically designed to ensure that students not only have high quality study material to refer to but also gain a broad cultural educational experience enabling them to have a clearer understanding of the nuances of meaning in the English language.

● To book a place for your children on one of their Holiday Programmes or for details about courses and centres closest to you, refer to www.cambridgeforlife.org, e-mail info@cambridgeforlife.org or call 03-7883 0912.



At CEFL, class activities are meaningful and stimulating.




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Making Today's Learning Tomorrow's Success

Cambridge English For Life (CEFL) is the leading provider of English language courses in Malaysia and CEFL centres conduct the following preparatory courses leading to the Cambridge ESOL Examinations.

Young Learners English (YLE)	The Cambridge Main Suite	Business English
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* Business English Communication Skills = HRDF claimable.

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