**Electronic Village Online (EVO) 2010**

**“The Use of the Internet for Young EFL Learners”**

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**Course content, activities, and free online resources:**

1. We used the wiki space, PBWorks.com, to design and run the course

<http://internet4younglearners.pbworks.com/>

and to post assignments

<http://internet4ylactivities.pbworks.com/Activities-Page>

1. We used Yahoo.com and Yahoogroups.com (YG) for communication via email, instant messaging (IM) for text-based chats, making “connections” with participants and peer-to-peer exchanges, and sharing documents.

Internet4younglearners@yahoogroups.com

If you would like to learn how to set up your own YG, go to this tutorial:

<http://academics.smcvt.edu/cbauer-ramazani/TESOL/EVOL/2006/Create_a_YG.htm>

1. We used Grouply.com for group discussions, peer-to-peer communication, posting ideas, and personal profiles.

<http://internet4younglearners.grouply.com/home>

1. We participated in an EVO moderators “kick-off” event via Elluminate.com that provided live streaming video, text-based chat, and Skype.com phone calls to the Webheads’ Virtual Office inside the LearningTimes (LT) community. <http://www.learningtimes.net/index.shtml>
2. We conducted a live, text-based chat and toured teachers’ (SandraR and JoannaRo) virtual office files on TappedIn (TI). We also attended a virtual field trip with an expert from TI. <http://tappedin.org/tappedin/>
3. We took polls via [www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com) and shared the results on our activities page.
4. We said our goodbyes at the end of the session with two podcasts

<http://aviary.com/artists/TeacherRogers/creations/the_moderators_bid_you_farewell>

and

<http://www.voxopop.com/topic/ec0a1c6b-6653-43ec-b594-8ba1d7b75f62>

*This is a session of the Electronic Village Online (EVO), a project of the CALL Interest Section of TESOL*

**Tips on Selecting Internet Activities for Children**

**Prepared according to the participant’s suggestions:**

* Create motivation to participate and work

* Have fun while working

* Be colorful

* Be challenging

* Students have fun while doing them
* Activities are motivating for students and they want to continue their work at home
* Be suitable for all ages (depending on the group you work with)

* Activities are suitable for the age of students (the language as well as the content and the form
* The language students learn is relevant and the activities are compatible with other activities in the classroom
* Be well organized and easy to follow

* Be short/long enough so as to keep students concentrated on the activity
* Try to choose activities that provide help and hints, and give feedback whenever possible
* Choose only safe sites. The most important thing to have in mind when choosing a site for your students is to be safe. We don't know young learners quite well, so I like listening to my students' advice.

**Participants’ Comments:**

1. About websites being challenging, I agree that sometimes they should be. Other times, my students need to review and to drill so concepts become more automatic.
2. The children would be very interested in exploring the website because the cartoon characters are familiar to them.
3. Always work through any quizzes and activities before setting them for your learners. I've seen some really attractive-looking materials on the net that are full of programming bugs or spelling and grammar mistakes when you take a closer look.
4. Students like to have choice, so I would find similar sites in content, but different in activities. Boys don't like the same things as girls!