

Professional Goal

By Ruiling Liang

Before I came to the Virginia 2012 Startalk Chinese Teacher Academy, I had heard of 100% target language teaching, but I always wondered how it truly worked. During the first week's learning in Startalk program, I heard an abundance of new information and terms. I tried to absorb as much as I could, beginning to glean the surface of these new teaching methods. When I saw the outputs from students, who only spent nine days to explore to the Chinese language, jump from novice low to novice high level of Chinese, I knew the theories and strategies we learned from the first week certainly worked very well. The students were amazing; actually, I should say that the approaches of teaching, which teachers have adopted from Startalk program, are amazing!

Those wonderful outcomes thrilled me and inspired me to apply these efficient teaching methods in my classrooms during the coming school year. I will

- Create an immersion-learning environment, teaching with target language-Chinese as much as possible during class.
- Adapt the five C standards (Communicate, Cultural, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities) and the three modes (interpretable, interpersonal, presentational) as my planning guide lines
- Use authentic materials

I will find the appropriate material first, and then design the tasks for the appropriate level. I will focus on what can be used, and circle the parts that the students are able to output. I will direct students to avoid the parts they are unable to handle yet. One hundred percent immersion is difficult to achieve in the beginning, but it is certainly doable with the use of a clear demo and by using authentic materials.

Liu Yu Laoshi gave a good example to practice the use of authentic materials. She used tickets of Gugong and Changcheng to show the places. Also, as an introductory activity, she prepared a big poster card to show students how to do the activities, instead of using English.

From this experience, I have learned to:

- Design and plan more student-centered activities, provide opportunities for active student responses, and encourage teacher-student interactions, all while embedding real life situations into the curriculum.
- Always think about meaningful and communicative drills to make the language learning more meaningful and practical.

I will also continue to attend professional development programs like 2012 Startalk UVA to gain exposure to the most advanced teaching methodologies and skills, so that I can apply the newest methods to my classroom teaching.