

# ***What's Next - Activity Cards***

Being able to control one's own learning situations should be a fundamental human right. Children are no exception. But:

1. Children may lack the maturity to make decisions that are best for learning.
2. Most children lack the language ability to discuss their learning desires and plan their learning using English.
3. The teacher has more experience and understanding of how language learning works in the classroom.
4. Classroom time is limited and precious.

One way to create a balance between giving children genuine choice and the teacher the flexibility and control over learning targets is to use Activity Cards.

Essentially, the teacher presents a selection of cards to the children. Each card depicts an activity. The lesson is an execution of the activities chosen by the children.

Activity cards have the following benefits:

1. The teacher can offer a choice quickly and visually.
2. The teacher can select cards according to the needs of a particular class and classroom situation.
3. The cards can be used in different ways and are an activity in themselves.
4. The cards generate curiosity and involvement.
5. The cards can lead the children to start using and practising language of choice.
6. The cards can be used for all or part of the lesson.
7. The cards can be used to supplement an existing textbook or curriculum.
8. The cards can be used to create an ongoing curriculum.
9. Recycling material is simply a matter of using the same cards over and over again.
10. The children's reaction to the cards gives valuable feedback.

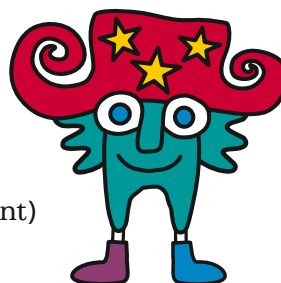
The one real drawback of the method is creating the cards in the first place.

## Possible Ways To Use The Cards:

1. Either/Or - Select two cards. The group votes to do one activity and NOT to do the other.
2. Order The Cards - The teacher selects cards for the lesson and the children decide on the running order. Cards not done in one week can be done first in the next.
3. My Choice - The teacher offers a selection of cards. Individual children take turns choosing cards. One activity is completed before the next card is chosen.
4. Cull To One - Individual Children take turns rejecting cards until there is only one left. That is the activity that is done.
5. Choose Some - The teacher offers a selection of cards and the children to choose a specific number. Children plan out the lesson by agreeing to remove cards.
6. Old and New - The teacher offers two sets of cards. The first set contains cards used previously. The second set contains new cards. Children choose a balance of each.
7. Old Yet New - The teacher offers a selection of cards used previously. Activities selected are played in a new way.
8. Random Selection - The teacher offers a selection of cards and assigns each a target word. Children write the target words matching their favourite activities on slips of paper. The slips of paper are mixed together in a hat and drawn randomly one at a time to choose which activity is done. Duplicate draws are discarded.

**Questions?**  
**Comments?**

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