THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON
Office of Technology Management

The C.I.R.C.L.E. English Language Learner's Kit

Introduction: The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston's Children's Learning Institute has developed the C.I.R.C.L.E. English Language Learners Kit ("ELL Kit"). The kit is aimed at teaching English proficiency to those for whom English is not their primary language.

The Technology: Teaching English adeptness to those who are not fluent, especially the very young, can be difficult. Often, it can be hard for a teacher, who may only be skilled in English, to teach English to a child who has grown up in home speaking Russian, Spanish, Chinese, or any of the other languages common in our culture. The ELL Kit avoids this issue by using a series of "Strands" embodying a specific theme to teach English language learners through fun activities which contain manipulatives, picture cards, books, etc. This way, a teacher is able to teach children how to become more proficient with English while not needing to actually speak the child's first language.

Contents of the Kit: The C.I.R.C.L.E. English Language Learners Kit contains the following Strands and Sub Themes:

1. The first strand deals with the children themselves and is being identified as the "Me" Strand, its tentative sub themes are "my body", "my clothes" and "my house".

2. The second strand deals with food children will encounter, its tentative sub themes are being called "food at home", "food at the grocery store", and "food at the restaurant".

3. The final Strand deals with animal's children will encounter, its tentative sub themes are "animals in my home", "animals on a farm", and "animals in the jungle".

By using specific activities to teach English language learners how to gain proficiency, the ELL kit represents an important step forward for these children.

NON-CONFIDENTIAL TECHNOLOGY DESCRIPTION

The preceding is intended to be a non-confidential summary of a novel technology created at the University of Texas Health Science center at Houston (UTHSCH)

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