

The butterfly

Description:

"Total Physical Response" or "TPR" is a teaching method which was designed by James ASHER in 1976. The focal point of this method is using bodily movement during the learning process. Pupils carry out simple instructions which they understand but cannot reproduce themselves.

The butterfly

Take a piece of paper and a pencil.
Draw a butterfly.
Get your water colours.
Colour the butterfly.
Cut out the butterfly.
Carry it to the window.
Open the window.
Blow softly on the butterfly.
Watch it fly away.



Children find it exciting when dealing with practical things

The teacher shakes a closed box while the pupils try to guess the contents. They learn that there is a colouring set, a pencil, a piece of paper and a diagramme of a butterfly in the box. The pupils then get up and make sure they have enough room to move about. The teacher then tells the story above sentence for sentence while carrying out the action(s) required. The first run through is only for the pupils to listen and repeat the movements. When listening to the second run through, the pupils should be able to carry out the correct actions themselves. Finally the teacher does the actions and the pupils must say the matching sentences. If this works well, the teacher might mix the actions so that the sentences must be spoken in a different order. Furthermore, the children could draw a picture matching each sentence. The teacher can then tell the story again while the pupils point to the correct picture.