**Teaching psychology to young children: Tips and activities**

**Psychology for children under 15**

- **Personal development subjects**
  - usually not called "psychology", available in many countries from preschool level of education, useful for developing mental health and life skills
- **Academic subjects**
  - available only in some countries, useful pre-requisite for 16+ psychology courses, however, it might be difficult to teach abstract psychological concepts to younger learners

**Teaching tips and activities**

**GAMIFICATION: online apps**

- Use online game-based platforms to get learners familiar with psychological terminology, e.g.:
  - www.toglic.com
  - www.socrative.com
  - www.kahoot.com
  - www.mentimeter.com etc.

**GAMIFICATION: board games**

- Use common board games to show learners how our mental processes work in their everyday activities, e.g.:
  - Memory game, Dobble, MimiQ, Story Cubes, Bingo...
- Or create your own version of these games using psychological terminology.

**VISUAL LEARNING:**

- Use visual images to present abstract psychological concepts. Visual symbols, flash cards or mindmaps may help learners to navigate through complex terminology of psychological theory.

**RESEARCH PROJECTS:**

- Use simplified research projects to develop critical thinking and help learners to understand how psychologists work, e.g.:
  - Behaviour observation, memory, perception or attention experiments, learning habits questionnaires, sociometry etc.

**Teaching of psychology in Slovakia:**

Basics of psychology are included as a part of compulsory academic school subject called „Citizenship education“ for 12-year old pupils.

**Course content:**

- introductory psychology (sensation, perception and imagination, memory and cognition, emotions, learning and learning styles),
- personality and interindividual differences,
- social psychology (groups, socialization, relationships, sociometry),
- application of psychology to every-day life (communication, cooperation, solving conflicts...)

In higher secondary education psychology is taught as a part of social studies, as an optional academic subject or as a vocational subject.

**Workshop presented at EFPTA conference 2018:**

Psychology for everyone
13th -14th April, 2018, Reykjavík, Iceland

**Workshop participants discussed their experiences from the teaching of psychology to young learners and were provided with the examples of teaching materials used in Slovakia.**

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