

Natural Way Activities

Tracy D. Terrell. 1983. The Natural Approach to language teaching: An update. In *Methods that work: a smorgasbord of ideas for language teachers*. Edited by John Oller, Jr., and Patricia A. Richard-Amato. Rowley, Massachusetts: Newbury House Publishers, Inc. Pp. 267-283.

Three requirements to promote acquisition: (1) to provide comprehensible input, (2) to lower the level of anxiety, and (3) to devise ways for the students to communicate messages, that is, incorporate an information gap component.

According to Terrell, the Natural Approach has three stages, with various activities corresponding to each stage (p. 282):

1. Comprehension (preproduction)
 - a. Total Physical Response (= TPR)
 - b. Answer with names—objects, students, pictures
2. Early speech production
 - a. Yes-no questions
 - b. Either-or questions
 - c. One-word or two-word answers
 - d. Open ended sentences
 - e. Open dialogues
 - f. Interviews
3. Speech emerges
 - a. Games and recreational activities
 - b. Content activities
 - c. Humanistic-affective activities
 - d. Information gap and problem-solving activities