



THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA  
 FACULTY OF EDUCATION  
 BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (HONOURS) IN PRIMARY EDUCATION  
 LEVEL - 04- 2023/2024  
 FINAL EXAMINATION  
 EPU4339- TEACHING ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD &  
 PRIMARY YEARS.  
 DURATION - TWO (02) HOURS

Date: 21.06.2025

Time: 1.30 p.m. - 03.30 P.m.

Answer All Questions in Part I and any three (03) questions from Part II.

PART - I

01. What are the **three (03)** fundamental grammar components to focus on when teaching English at the primary level in an ESL classroom.
02. Why is it important to speak slowly and increase 'wait time' when communicating with children in early childhood grades?
03. What is meant by a 'basic foundational skill in the context of teaching English to young learners, and why is understanding this concept important for effective pedagogy?
04. What are the key early literacy skills essential for language learning during early childhood and primary years?
05. List four major reason why teaching the **four (04)** language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) is important in English as a Second Language (ESL) introduction at the primary education stage.
06. What are **three (03)** key advantages of developing listening skills during the early years of language education?
07. Describe **three (03)** ways technology can be integrated into second language instruction for children in early childhood and primary education.
08. What is the difference between 'assessment for learning' and 'assessment of learning' and why is it important for schools to use a balanced combination of both.

(5 x 8 = 40 marks)

PART - II

09. "Early childhood is a critical window for language development making it the ideal time to introduce English as a second language."
  - i. Define the importance of introducing English as a second language during early childhood. (05 marks)

- ii. Explain briefly the challenges teachers may face when teaching English at the primary level. (07 marks)
- iii. Discuss **three (03)** long-term benefits of early exposure of English language learning. (08 marks)
10. i. What is phonemic awareness, and why is it critical in early literacy development? (05 marks)
- ii. Describe **two (02)** classroom activities that can be used to strengthen sound-letter correspondence. (07 marks)
- iii. In your experience or opinion, what difficulties do young learners face when connecting sounds to letters? (08 marks)
11. i. Identify **two (02)** benefits of integrating technology into early English language teaching. (05 marks)
- ii. What are the limitations of using technology with young learners, and how can they be addressed? (07 marks)
- iii. Describe **three (03)** digital tools or platforms you could use in a primary ESL classroom, with examples. (08 marks)
12. i. Explain the importance of oral language development in early childhood. (05 marks)
- ii. What challenges may arise when implementing speaking activities, and how would you overcome them? (07 marks)
- iii. Design a simple pair or group activity on speaking which is suitable for a primary ESL class and explain how it could be conducted. (08 marks)
13. i. Define the term “grammar” in the context of early childhood English language teaching. (05 marks)
- ii. Discuss how inductive and deductive approaches can be used to teach grammar to young learners (07 marks)
- iii. Which approach (from the above) do you prefer in your teaching? Give reasons providing examples from your experience. (08 marks)

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