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I Wish I Could Have Learned Spanish in the Same Way!

Today I sat in on an English class from one of our teachers who has been with Koala House for five years. As I sat there observing I couldn't help but think, "I wish my Spanish teacher used similar methods for teaching Spanish, as Mr. Koos uses to teach these children English." Maybe if my Spanish teacher had I would be able to speak Spanish right now. For those of you who might be curious as to what I observed, read on.



Mr. Koos opened his class with a "Question – Answer Game" in order to review things the children were already familiar with: "What are you wearing today?" "What color do you like?" "What's the weather like outside today?" "How are you feeling?" "Do you have shorts and a t-shirt?" "Do you like to eat chocolate?" "What do you like to drink?" ... After this, everyone stood up and very enthusiastically sang one of their favorite songs. I could tell it was one of their favorites by the way they sang and did the actions to the song. "Can an elephant jump? No, it can't. Can an elephant fly? No, it can't. Can an elephant walk? Yes, it can. An elephant can walk. Walk. Walk. Walk...Walk. Stop!..." Next, Mr. Koos reviewed the vocabulary from this month's theme, "The Classroom", and played a game called "Hit It!" With the flashcards on the floor, the teacher would call out or describe a word and the two children who were selected to play had to find the correct flashcard and hit it first. Whoever hit the card first got to keep it. After everyone had a chance to play and win some cards, they used the cards they earned to play another game called "Run, Run, Run." With the children at one end of the room and Mr. Koos at the other end of the room, he would call out, "I want the (paintbrushes). Or he would say, "Who has the (chairs)?" When a child's card was selected, the child would run with the card to Mr. Koos and call out, "I have the (paintbrushes)." "I have the (chairs)..." The children loved running with their cards and giving them to their teacher. At the end of their learning time with Mr. Koos, the children looked satisfied. I did too. Smile.

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