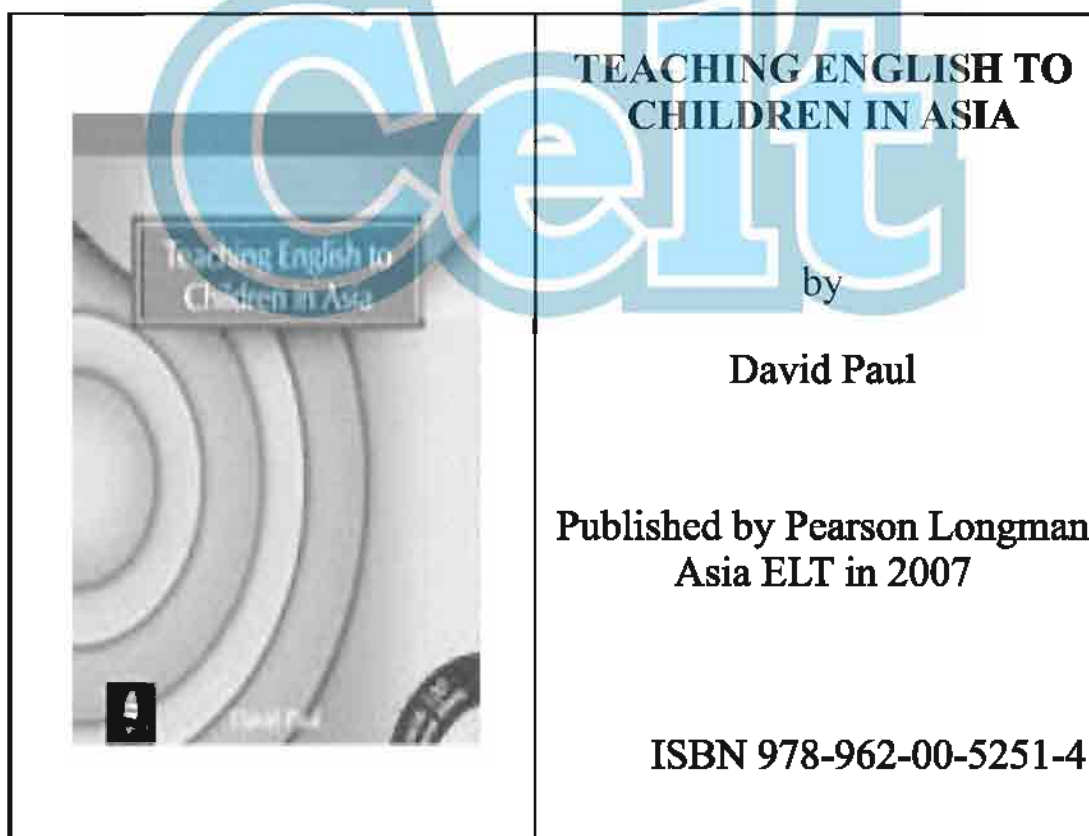


**A BOOK REVIEW:
TEACHING ENGLISH WITH CHILD-CENTERED
APPROACH AND LESSON TO CHILDREN
IN ASIA**

**Reviewed by
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As written by its author at the preface of the book, this book is written as a guidebook for English teachers in Asia countries. Based on his own experiences in teaching English to children in Japan, David Paul, the author of the book, is offering some practical guides to deal with English classes in Asia. Teaching English in Asia is challenging for both English native teachers and local English teachers due to some hard facts such as the teachers' knowledge about their English classes and materials, Asian children's nature and the English learners' environment.

Teachers' knowledge about their English classes which includes their understanding of students' characteristics, classroom management, and choosing materials for the class is one of the determinants for a successful English teaching. English native teachers can not assume nor treat Asian students in a way they do with students in English speaking countries. Asian students tend to have their own characteristics when learning a new or second language which is much influenced by some factors such as the local culture, language environment, and the learners' belief in second language learning. Teachers' knowledge about the students is considerably beneficial for their teaching; it prevents frustration from both the teacher and the students' side when they have to work together to make the teaching and learning process a success.

This book is giving more emphasis on child-centered learning highlighting a child-centered lesson, approach and teaching techniques. Through this book, David Paul tries to induce English teachers, especially English teachers in Asia to know more about how to apply child-centered approach. He further provides some handy teaching techniques which can be easily applied by English teachers. To support the teaching techniques, this book is also completed with game bank which consists of a hundred game ideas. Not only presenting some ideas to improve teaching techniques, David Paul also gives an enlightening overview of classroom management

including the pro and contra of using rewards, punishment, and praises in the classroom.

Basically, most of the main ideas presented in this book can be applied in Indonesia which is definitely one of the Asian countries. Within the frame of foreign language setting, the teaching of English to children in Indonesia is not as easy as it is in English speaking countries. Children's exposure to the target language is mostly done in the classroom; they hardly have a chance to have more exposure outside the classroom. This kind of learning environment needs more commitment of the teachers to keep up their teaching quality. This book is a kind of helpful resources for English teachers in Indonesia to better their teaching performance.

Aside the beneficial aspects of applying a child-centered approach to English classes in Indonesia, English teachers in Indonesia often have to face some challenges such as the number of students in the class, school curriculum, and school's readiness to create English classroom atmosphere. The big size of English classroom often becomes a challenge for English teachers to deal with child-centered approach. Within sixty minutes, sometimes it is hard to apply a full child-centered approach; teachers may have to use their authority to well manage their classroom. Another challenge is dealing with the school curriculum which teacher have to catch up. The school curriculum often do not give teachers some extra space to 'do' something with their classes. Under such circumstances, teachers hardly have enough time to give children their own space to observe, experiment, and make links.

For English teachers in Indonesia who have small size classes, the ideas in this book are applicable and inspiring. Moreover if the schools or institutions give more serious attention to English lessons by giving more hours for this lesson. This book is also quite inspiring for Indonesian teachers who teach at international schools or immersion programs. Today, international standard schools or

immersion programs have become a trend in Indonesia especially in some of the biggest cities of this country. In those schools and programs, most of the interactions between teacher and students are done in English so that children may have more opportunities to have experiments with new words, patterns or expressions when they are engaged in both school intra and extra activities.

The best thing of this book is that every chapter is ended with “A Pause to Reflect”. In this part, readers, especially English teachers are given a chance to think of their own learning situation which will enable them to apply the approach and teaching techniques suggested by the author. This part is also completed with some questions which will help English teachers reflect their own teaching. These questions further help English teachers examine the situations and things needed for them to apply the child-centre approach.

At the very end of this book, readers can access a hundred games ideas which are compiled in game bank. Children are best learning when they are playing and enjoying their activities. However, sometimes teachers end-up with difficulties in presenting lessons through games. The games bank is a breakthrough for English teachers to select, pick up and use the games to teach. Most of the games are quite practical to be applied and do not require so many equipments; in fact, some of them are simple but very creative.

As a conclusion, this book is quite inspiring for English Teachers, especially those who teach English to young learners in Asia, including Indonesian teachers. The author does not demand English teachers to apply all ideas presented through the eleven chapters of this book. On the other hand, this book offers some solution for English teachers with various background and school environment. The language used in this book is also easy to be understood and followed. With all the benefits that we can get from this book, this book is deserved to be one of our teaching book collection.