

**HOW TO FOSTER 21ST CENTURY SKILLS AMONG ENGLISH LEARNERS**

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**Annotation:** The article introduces the importance of 21st century skills and their relevance for English learners. It sets the stage for discussing strategies to foster these skills in language learners.

**Key words:** critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity, digital literacy, technology, transformative pedagogy.

The theme of fostering 21st century skills among English learners focuses on equipping language students with the competencies necessary to thrive in the modern, globalized world. This theme encompasses the integration of critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity, digital literacy, and cross-cultural competence into English language education. The goal is to prepare English learners to navigate complex challenges, engage in meaningful interactions, and contribute effectively to a diverse and interconnected society. The theme also emphasizes the role of educators in implementing strategies, providing support, and assessing the development of 21st century skills in language learners. Overall, the theme underscores the importance of empowering English learners with the tools and abilities needed for success in the 21st century.

**Definition of 21st Century Skills:** This section defines 21st century skills, highlighting their significance in the modern globalized world and their connection to language learning.

**Importance of English Proficiency:** The article emphasizes the role of English proficiency in developing 21st century skills, underscoring the need for language learners to master English as a tool for communication and collaboration.

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### Strategies for Fostering 21st Century Skills:

- ✓ **Project-Based Learning:** Discusses how project-based learning can enhance critical thinking, collaboration, and communication skills among English learners.
- ✓ **Technology Integration:** Explores the use of technology to promote digital literacy, creativity, and innovation in language learning.
- ✓ **Cross-Cultural Competence:** Addresses the development of cultural awareness and global citizenship through language education.
- ✓ **Problem-Solving Activities:** Presents activities that encourage English learners to develop problem-solving and decision-making abilities.

Given the vital role played by the 21st century skills in enhancing effective impact and exposure to students in today's world, it's crucial for 21st century skills to be integrated as a transformative pedagogy (Paschal, 2022). Although, some of the country in the world such as Nigeria, Tanzania and Ivory Coast, a West Africa francophone country have tried to improve communication through technology, educators and young people in Tanzania and Ivory Coast are still experience difficulties in their classrooms and communication in general.

Furthermore, according to the experience of different practitioners in public, private, vocational and independent education in Tanzania and Ivory Coast, as non-English native context, it's been noticed that most of the learners in general English language classrooms find it difficult to closely follow the teaching process due to the fact that the teachers of English language face a significant challenge in managing the class. With this reality, learners find themselves losing motivation to keep up with the instruction given by their teachers about the English lesson something contribute to students drop out from schools. Therefore, the traditional methods of teaching and learning in educational institutions need to be reshaped and revised to enhance the effective learning (Mahona & Pacho, 2022). Moreover, Jiang, Perkins, and Pena (2021), emphasize that traditional teaching pedagogies need to change by integrating

21st century teaching pedagogy which has proved to be a transformative teaching and learning approach.

In fact, the goal of this research was to raise the knowledge, skills, and competencies of the stakeholders in the educational system in order to offer transformational, sustainable pedagogy through lifelong learning in English as a foreign language (ELT) and effective instruction. Next, this study aims to enhance the community's involvement in the learning of English language skills through the everyday application of 21st century skills, participation in practice communities, and the use of an appropriate communicative method to equip students with skills. Additionally, as the research's conclusions may improve students' language competency and motivate English instructors and other educators to engage in more collaborative activities, students and learners will directly benefit from it.

By using a communicative approach, they will be equipped with 21st century pedagogy abilities to assist students in resolving problems and difficulties.

Fostering 21st century skills among English learners is important for several reasons:

**Global Competence:** In today's interconnected world, English learners need to develop cross-cultural competence, communication skills, and the ability to collaborate with diverse individuals and groups. Fostering 21st century skills helps students become global citizens who can engage effectively in international contexts.

**Employability:** Many employers seek candidates who possess 21st century skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and digital literacy. By fostering these skills, English learners are better prepared for the demands of the modern job market.

**Adaptability:** The rapid pace of change in the 21st century requires individuals to be adaptable and open to new ideas and technologies. By developing 21st century skills, English learners can more easily navigate change and innovation.

**Lifelong Learning:** 21st century skills are not only important for immediate success but also for ongoing personal and professional development. By fostering these skills, English learners are better equipped for lifelong learning and continuous improvement.

**Civic Engagement:** Engaging in meaningful dialogue, understanding diverse perspectives, and contributing positively to society are essential aspects of citizenship in the 21st century. Fostering 21st century skills helps English learners become active and informed participants in their communities.

Overall, fostering 21st century skills among English learners is crucial for preparing them to thrive in a rapidly changing, interconnected world and to become effective communicators, critical thinkers, and contributors to society.

Fostering 21st century abilities in English language learners highlights the significance of developing digital literacy, critical thinking, problem-solving, cooperation, communication skills, and cross-cultural competency. These abilities are necessary for success in the globally linked world of today because they allow people to become global citizens, adjust to change quickly, improve their employability, pursue lifelong learning, and make meaningful contributions to society. By developing these abilities, English language learners may become more productive communicators, critical thinkers, and members of society, and they can also flourish in a world that is changing quickly and becoming more interconnected.

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**Internet resources:**

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2. <https://chat.openai.com/auth/login>