

Plurilingual Fashion Show

Age
11+



Context:

- A primary school in Dublin, Ireland. English is the language of schooling. The Irish language is a curricular subject with 3.5 hours per week teaching allocation.
- There are 25 children in this Sixth Class (age 11+). 20 of these children speak home languages other than English. Within this group there are 12 different language backgrounds.

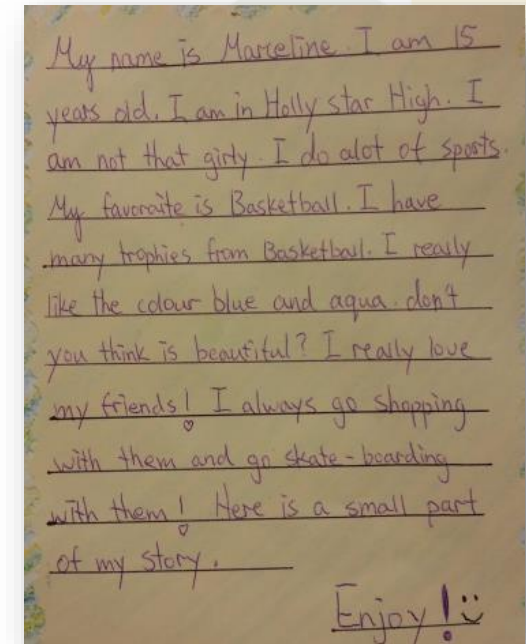
Reasons for choosing the activity:

- The teacher uses the children's interest in putting on a fashion show as a means of incorporating all the languages of the classroom, thereby helping to develop her pupils' plurilingual skills.

Description:

- As part of their end of primary school celebrations, one class asks their teacher if they could organize a fashion show, promising to undertake all the organization and preparation themselves. The teacher agrees with the provision that all the languages at their disposal are used at some point in the event. Children acted as commentators, models and sound technicians (→ holistic and meaningful language learning).

- A further expectation of the children is that they would undertake a written exercise. To do this, they have to invent a fictitious model describing them in all the languages within their particular competence (→ continuous and coherent language learning).



Observation:

- Agreeing to the production of a fashion show while insisting that the full linguistic repertoire of the group be used, tapped into children's expressed interests (→ relying on linguistic repertoires).
- Increasing interaction between all groups helps to cultivate and enhance social cohesion between individuals and groups in the classroom.
- At the same time, their plurilingual skills are being exploited for the benefit of all.

Example 1: English text written by Marceline

Je m'appelle Marceline. J'ai quinze ans.
Je vais à l'école "Holly Star High"
J'aime le sport. J'adore le basket.
J'ai gagné beaucoup de J'adore les
couleurs bleu et aqua. J'adore mes
amis - je fais le magasin toujours!
Je vais avec mon ami
Amusez-vous bien!

Example 2: French text written by a Marceline

Example 3: Irish text written by a Marceline

Is mise Marceline. Tá mé curiúg bhliain
deag d'aois. Tá mé ag freastal ar Holly
Star High. Níl fear catian mé. Is maith
liom spóirt. Is aoibhéal liom cispheil.
Bhuaigh mé a lán trofái sa cispheil.
Is aoibhín liom na dothana gorm agus
aqua. Is aoibhín liom mo charde! Bim
mé igronaí sípadoireacht le mo cara,
agus ag scráil le mo charde!
Bain taitneamh astu!

我的名字是 Marceline. 我今年 15 岁.
我在 "Holly Star High" 上学. 我不是一个
girly girl. 我很喜欢运动. 我最喜欢
的是篮球! 我 ying 了很多的 jiang
杯. 我很喜欢蓝色和水蓝色真
的很漂亮! 我非常喜欢我的同
学和朋友! 我 jing 邀我的同学出去
goa wu 有的时候 heu 和他们 hua
ban. Enjoy!

Example 4: Text in Mandarin written by a Marceline