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Challenges of My Professional Development

There is no doubt that difficulties and challenges of the professional development are one of the most pressing issues in the teaching profession. Nowadays I, as a teacher, face difficult decision when I think about the conformity of my personality and my profession. It is generally accepted that the personality of the teacher, his training and skills decide the success of the case. In pedagogy, the most integral and systemic concept that determines the quality of professional activity is the concept of "pedagogical skills".

I would like to express my opinion on this problem: the teacher must not be a dictator, imposing child existing norms, the teacher should be a mentor, organizing and directing the process of mastering public experience, adoption of the standards formulated by society, the implementation of public experience and develop the own experience. My personal view is that never stop learning because life never stops teaching us. The thing that needs to be said, as an English teacher, I mastered various methods of teaching children, I took the book “How to teach English” by Jeremy Harmer. "The How to… series is written by teachers and teacher trainers, people who know the reality of the classroom and the support teachers need to get the most out of their students. Our aim is to build teachers' confidence, knowledge and classroom abilities - and inspire them to try out new ideas." (Jeremy Harmer).This book helped me a lot in my professional development because I had a big break in my career because of maternity leave. In the first place for me is Communicative Language Teaching (CLT). The main purpose of this training is the communicative competence of students. The teacher when using the communicative approach, as a rule, acts as a: assistant, friend, adviser. The focus is on group learning. In my experience, it is necessary for effective teaching.

It is often said that ‘good teachers are born, not made’ and it does seem that some people have a natural affinity for the job. But there are also others, perhaps, who do not have what appears to be a natural gift but who are still effective and popular teachers. Such teachers learn their craft through a mixture of personality, intelligence, knowledge and experience (and how they reflect on it). And even some of the teachers who are apparently ‘born teachers’ weren’t like that at the beginning at all, but grew into the role as they learnt their craft. “Teaching is not an easy job, but it is a necessary one, and can be very rewarding when we see our students’ progress and know that we have helped to make it happen. It is true that some lessons and students can be difficult and stressful at times, but it is also worth remembering that at its best teaching can also be extremely enjoyable.” (Jeremy Harmer). There is a great deal of truth in what he says, the professional competence of the teacher depends on the different properties of the individual, its main source is training and subjective experience.

On the one hand, my professional competence is characterized by a constant desire for improvement, acquisition of new knowledge and skills, enrichment activities. Psychological basis of competence is readiness for constant improvement of the qualification, professional development. On the other hand, it is necessary to create the conditions in which the teacher is aware of the need to improve the own professional skills. The analysis of own pedagogical experience activates professional self-development of the teacher. I think, it is possible to distinguish stages of formation of professional competence: self-analysis and awareness of the need; self-development planning (goals, objectives, solutions); self-manifestation, analysis, self-correction.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that how many teachers have so many own opinions… All in all, I still strongly believe that the success of a student's activity in a foreign language lesson will depend on how the teacher laid the motivational basis for learning and self-learning. The teacher, who is not developing, will never educate creative personality. In summary, I believe that the competence of a foreign language teacher can be defined as a set of professional and personal qualities (competencies) of a teacher, which determines the effectiveness of the pedagogical activity.