

Foreign Language Open Center

## 연수 외국어 열린 센터 체험수기



**Aaron T.  
Bruckart**  
(teacher)

A great new education program has been blossoming here in Yeonsu-gu, but you might not know about it unless your child is already enrolled. The program is run through the Yeonsu Foreign Language Open Center and sponsored by Yeonsu Gu District Office.

Our program, like so many others in South Korea, has a goal of helping young students to learn and understand English. But it's the differences in our approach to learning and our staffs that make us stand out, and have pushed for a lot of growth in a short period of time. Based out of the Songdo 2dong community center, we started out less than a year ago teaching students at that center and at a community center in Yeonsu 2dong. Due to the success of those first two, our program has already expanded to include six centers total in which students can receive a great English education.

Our English programs are designed to reach elementary school students of all ages and ability levels. Also, our various classes include Story Time, Body Challenge Up (a physical education class), Dream Up classes for vocabulary and everyday language use and experience, Learn to Read classes on two different levels, conversation-focused classes and a variety of other classes that any student will find accessible. We don't focus on TOEIC and TOEFL and getting higher test scores. What we focus on is comfortable learning through experiences with both native speaking English teachers and Korean teachers with extremely high English ability.

This allows us to work with the students in ways that are both fun and effective, without the typical stress that comes from the need to pass a test. And while there is a belief that you get what you pay for, many high-priced academies can't come close to matching the classroom of experience of our staff. Many academies and after-school programs hire a new, young teacher every year with little or no classroom experience. But our native English speakers have more 20 years of teaching experience combined as well as real-world work experience in English-related fields back in their homelands. Our Korean teaching staff and managers also have many years of classroom experience, intense training and years of living in English speaking countries.

And forget about having your kids sit through yet another boring, standard English text book. At the beginning of every semester – lasting three months each – our teachers have one to two weeks to create and prepare our new lessons and curriculum as a team. Your sons and daughters won't be sitting through the same "I'm fine, thank you. And you" robot English lessons ever again when they're learning with us. By using interactive, hands-on activities, songs, video clips and games, we do our very best to make sure that not only are the students learning English, but are also enjoying themselves while doing it.

As someone who has spent a year working in a standard academy and then two years at a public elementary school, our style of lesson creation and classroom participation is refreshing and gives me a great feeling of responsibility when helping students learn.

As the semester rolls on, it seems that the growth of our program only helps to prove how successful we have been. We're certainly hoping to be running for a long time. And if you want your child to be a part of a great learning experience, then it would definitely be in your best interest to enroll in our program. We promise to keep working hard and offering the best experience possible to all the students we meet.



**Na-Yeon Kim**  
(student)

My name is Na Yeon Kim and I am in fourth grade. Currently, I am taking a Topic Talk class in Yeonsu Foreign Language Open Center. I am writing to share my experiences about the Topic Talk class.

I think the Topic Talk class is fantastic!! During the class, we play fun games, learn things that are new, watch movies clips and more! Sometimes, we play scrabble or watch Mr. Bean series. Then, we talk about the problem or find out why things happened the way they did.

When we get to class, first, we decide on a topic for the day. Then, we watch a short movie or pictures so that we can understand better and gather our thoughts. Lastly, we have a discussion. I think it's a helpful class for students who enjoy class discussions and free talking. I highly recommend it!

## 누구나 참여 가능한 생활밀착형 외국어교육 연수 외국어 열린센터

