# English for Careers in Education and Childcare







This program has three parts:

- 1) Class 2x a month on Tuesday evenings from 6-8:30pm
- 2) Weekly school volunteer placement. Times vary.
- 3) Ongoing support from Tim, Lindsay, Laura and Barbara.

Fall Class Schedule:	Career Support from	Volunteer Placements
(required)	Barbara and Laura: (Optional)	and meetings with Tim and Lindsay:
Tuesdays:	(Optional)	(required)
September 15th	Tuesdays:	
September 29th*	September 24th October 20th	To be determined.
*meet at Cummings School	November 17th	
October 13th	Additional acceleration	
October 27th	Additional sessions in Spring 2016	
November 10th		
November 24th		
December 8th		
will continue Jan. 26-Apr. 14		

## We will cover these topics:

How children learn ● Working with teachers ● Teaching math ● Teaching literacy skills

- Classroom management Types of ESL programs Parent/Teacher communication
- CPR/First Aid Special education Career paths in education and child care First class meeting:

## -Get to know each other (20 min)

Together: Name game, Find something you have in common Small groups: About class--look over syllabus and ask questions Advanced with Lindsay, Intermediate with Tim

## -Video (30 min)

Small group discussion or together?

Possible categories for students to consider:

- What activities are students and teachers involved in?
- How do students and teachers communicate with each other?
- Who talks in the classroom?
- What does the classroom look like?
- How are students seated?

## -Reading on Zone of Proximal Development(30 min)

Advanced with Tim, Intermediate with Lindsay Share with a partner from the other group

#### -Classroom placements and process (20 min)

Expectations for the classroom. (Lindsay and Tim act out "bad/unprofessional" scenes, students give "better" example. Make a list of expectations for being in the classroom.

What will happen next?

Complete volunteer application online (30 min) \*check with Joe about using computer lab

Closure next steps (15 min)
Sharing Circle

#### **Zone of Proximal Development**













Some questions for discussion:

Who was the first person to describe the Zone of Proximal Development? Where was he from?

What is the zone of proximal development? Can you describe the three areas in the picture?

What happens if teachers try to teach something that is too easy? What happens if teachers try to teach something that is too hard?

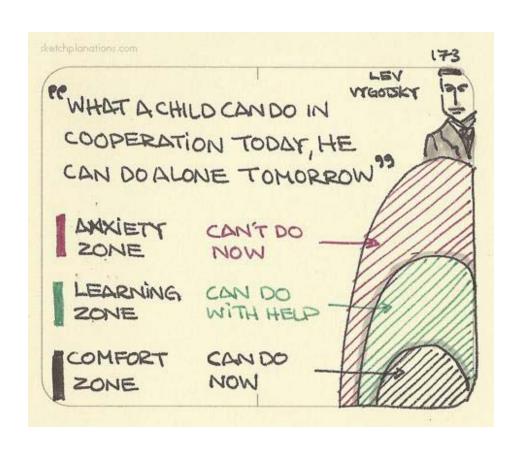
What are some ways teachers can support students to learn material that is "just right" for their level?

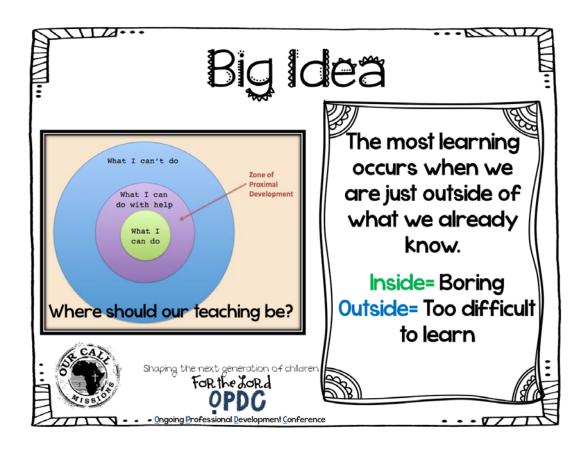
Why is this an important concept for teachers to understand?

# **Zone of Proximal Development**

What are you interested in working with? \_\_\_\_\_

What can children do BY THEMSELVES at this age?	What can they do WITH HELP?	What can children usually not do yet?





#### Introduction

'Okay, class, today we're going to solve equations. Here we go. Who can tell me the answer of this equation: 3x=12? No one? Come on, guys. Fine; I guess I'll just stand up here all day until you answer.'

Yikes! Mrs. Green has no clue how to guide her students through this problem! She thinks all of them know the steps to solving an equation and is not giving them any help or clues. Let's see if we can help Mrs. Green use some concepts of cognitive development according to Lev Vygotsky.

#### **Zone of Proximal Development**



The Soviet psychologist Lev Vygotsky (1896-1934) developed a theory of cognitive development that focused on the role of culture in the development of higher mental functions. Several concepts arose from that theory that are important to classroom learning. This lesson will focus on one of these concepts: **zone of proximal development**.

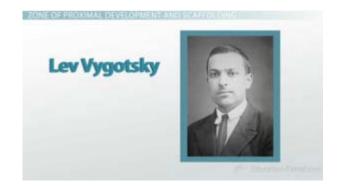
The zone of proximal development, or **ZPD**, is an important principle of Vygotsky's work. ZPD is defined as the range of tasks that a child can perform with the help and guidance of others but cannot yet perform independently.

Within the zone of proximal development there are two levels. First we have the **actual development level**. This is the upper limit of tasks one can perform independently. The second level is the **level of potential development**. This is the upper limit of tasks that one can perform with the assistance of a more competent individual such as a teacher or classmate.

Vygotsky viewed the zone of proximal development as the area where the most sensitive instruction or guidance should occur. This would allow the child to develop skills to use on his or her own to develop higher mental functions.

Look at the example of Mrs. Green. How can she use the Zone of Proximal Development to improve her teaching?

#### **Zone of Proximal Development- Group 2**



Lev Vygotsky was a psychologist. He was born in Belarus in 1896. He died in Russia in 1934. He developed a theory of cognitive development. Many teachers study his theory today. One important concept he developed is the Zone of Proximal Development (or ZPD).

Think about children of any age. There are some things they can do alone without help. There are some things they can do with help from a friend, parent or teacher--this is ZPD. The teacher can think of ways to support students in completing activities with help. The goal is for the students to keep practicing until they can do these activities without help.

Can do	Can do	Can't do
now	with help	yet

- 1) A five year old can tie her shoes with help.
- 2) A baby cannot do calculus.
- 3) A first grader can read a short book with her mother.
- 4) An 11 year old can solve addition, subtraction, multiplication and division problems without help.
- 5) An elementary student can do multiplication problems if she draws pictures. She can't do the problems in her head.

- 6) A fifth grader reads independently for 20 minutes.
- Two four year olds are fighting over some toys. The teaching assistant talks with them and helps them think of a way to play together.
- 8) A 70 year old can send an email if her grandson helps her turn on the computer and open the internet.
- 9) A student follows the teacher's outline to design a class presentation.