

TECH & TOUCH:

Blending technology-enhanced learning with kinaesthetic and TPR activities

SPEAKER:

LIANA FITZGERALD

Abstract

As more and more schools around the world integrate technology into their classrooms, initial enthusiasm over tech-based learning often gives way to challenges. If initially students were responding mainly in positive ways to digital materials, as screen have become more and more part of their daily (and night) lives – phenomenon which was exacerbated by online learning and social distancing during the covid pandemic – this widened the gap for tech-addiction to creep in. This in turn has led to decreased engagement and motivation among students, raising concerns about the efficacy of tech-based instruction alone. In response, this workshop will explore strategies for blending technology-enhanced learning with kinaesthetic and Total Physical Response (TPR) activities to create a balanced and dynamic classroom environment. Drawing from firsthand experiences, we will share insights on leveraging hands-on, multisensory approaches to reinvigorate student focus, foster deeper engagement, and reignite enthusiasm for learning. By incorporating practical techniques and real-world examples, this workshop aims to empower teachers to optimize learning experiences, harnessing the best of both digital and physical worlds to cultivate meaningful educational interactions.

Biography

Liana one of the lucky people who get to do their childhood dream job. A passionate teacher, trainer, and sometimes teacher trainer, she has gone from teaching kindergarten to teaching business English to adults, to being a mentor, DoS and everything in between in terms of ages and levels, for the past twenty or so years. She is currently CPD Coordinator at the International Computer High-school of Bucharest, while also teaching Culture and Civilisation to secondary students. Additionally, she is a dedicated complementary health practitioner, and a fan of "no talk" therapies, principles from which she constantly uses in her work, as a way to focus on students' or teachers' well-being, as well as on their academic or professional success. If she is not at school, she is most probably spending time with her family and friends, out hiking, or sometimes (quite rarely) baking.

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