

## Traits that transform a teacher into a highly competent one!

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### Abstract

This paper aims to highlight the essential language competencies that an English Language teacher is to possess. The role of the teacher is becoming more significant and demanding day by day. Teachers are expected to use a wide variety of methods, tools and approaches and to tailor them to the learners' needs. They are required to possess varied competencies and skills necessary to create a positive classroom environment and work collaboratively with other stakeholders within and outside the school in order to provide timely support to learners. Every student has the right to develop Language competencies gradually at every stage of their school life, linking the curricular expectations.

**Key Words:** Competencies, Traits, teachers, English Language

### Skills required for a competent teacher

Being a teacher in today's world, demands a lot of skills. The role of a teacher has become broader. Every teacher across the Nation is expected to make use of various methodologies involving varied teaching-learning approaches to cater to the needs of the children. It is the teacher who can create a congenial, positive atmosphere in the school as well as in the classroom and provide support to the students.

There are some specific skills and competences that teachers are expected to acquire in the course of their career:

- Teachers need a positive attitude towards the heterogeneous set of learners in their classes.
- They are to select from a wide range of teaching techniques and active learning strategies which include project-based and enquiry-based teaching so as to work effectively with the learners who have different learning requirements.
- Teachers are life-long learners and hence need to update about the latest research and evidence-based practices relevant to their work. They also are required to share the knowledge thus attained, with other teachers.
- Teachers who are lifelong learners also consider professional challenges as part of their learning process. They also gain knowledge and information that they can share with other teachers and in their daily practice.
- They need to integrate formative assessment methods in teaching and learning to provide learners with feedback and support progress toward learning goals.
- It is important for the teachers to attain a competence to identify the risk factors prevailing in the school or classroom paving way for learning difficulties among students.
- Effective communication is an important tool to build a powerful bridge between the teachers and the students.

- Teachers need to develop interpersonal competences in order to promote a trust-based relationship with the learners.
- Teachers are to act as mentors and facilitators to improve the performance of their wards.

### **Mastery in Language Competencies:**

An influencing teacher is expected to bring about a drastic welcoming change in the school life of a child. School children are expected to speak fluently in English and there arises a need to have a mastery over the English Language by the time a student completes schooling. This mastery and fluency in English Language enables a child to face the social life with confidence. Hence, parents have high expectation to hear their wards to attain good Language skills.

It lies in the hands of an efficient teacher to bring up the students in lieu with the expectation of the parents. There are certain Language skills that are expected to be developed in the school children. Those competencies that will enable the students to speak English without any fear need to be given by the teachers. Only when a teacher is competent enough, could it be transformed to the child. There are certain Language competencies that every child is expected to attain at the Elementary and the Secondary Level. When a child is to attain these competencies, it is obviously to be understood that the teacher is to attain all those competencies in the first instance. The teacher needs to be proficient in the Language skills in order to make the students proficient users of the English Language. Teachers are to act as launching pads for developing the Language skills among the students.

It's in the hands of a competent teacher in English to enable the students to:

- develop the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing, in an integrated manner.
- acquire communication skills.
- comprehend, interpret and express in English Language
- be critical and creative.
- be sound in vocabulary.
- use the language accurately and appropriately.
- report and document incidents and events.
- gain confidence while interacting to others in English.

A teacher can bring out these among the children only when there is mastery of expected competencies among the teachers.

### **Core Competencies of a skilled teacher:**

#### **1. Interaction with Students:**

A skilful teacher is to positively interact with all the students in the classroom. This includes slow-bloomers, students who are at the average level and the toppers. The teacher is to throw away prejudices if any and is to treat all students equally, providing them with equal opportunities for learning and is to make them feel confident enough.

#### **2. Creating a conducive Learning Environment:**

It demands the role of a competent enough teacher to create a safe and conducive learning environment for the learners. This will pave way for a high performance and behaviour levels among students. The students will also be

encouraged to speak up freely with the teacher in such a classroom atmosphere.

### **3. Designing a good Lesson Plan:**

A skilled teacher will be capable of designing lesson plans in order to meet the needs of the students and also keep up the required standards. It includes with it the choosing and creation of teaching-learning materials according to the students who are at different levels in the same classroom.

### **4. Ability to implement varied teaching strategies:**

A competent teacher will implement appropriate teaching strategies and the best teaching practices in order to carry over the suggested curriculum and do not stick on to a single teaching method. This will promote multiple learning styles among students. Hence, the teacher is to participate in professional development workshops and training sessions to update with the new teaching –learning practices and strategies.

### **5. A good listener:**

Students are good speakers. They expect an ear to listen to them. Communication happens when both the teacher and the student take chances. Listening with patience is a greater asset of a competent teacher. Students, when given opportunity to express, feel confident enough when the teacher listens and acknowledges.

### **6. Ability to identify students' needs:**

A highly competent teacher will be able to identify and also address the needs of every student in the classroom. The assessment techniques carried out by the teacher will be handy in this. It is essential for the teacher to recognise the interests of the learners and also their mental and

emotional abilities on par with their learning abilities.

### **7. Effective in communication:**

An effective teacher is to communicate effectively with the parents and other stakeholders. It is one of the responsibilities of a competent teacher to regularly update the child's progress and also to address concerns that may arise if any.

### **8. Ability to assess the students:**

A skilled teacher is to continuously assess the students and help in their betterment. So, the teacher is to design tools for such assessments and administer them among the students. Such assessment techniques will enable the teacher to monitor and accurately measure the performance of the students and to reinforce in case of need. Assessments can be done formally or even informally. Portfolios can be maintained based on such assessments.

### **9. Skilled in selecting appropriate assessment methods:**

A teacher needs to be well aware of the appropriate useful, convenient, economical and fair assessment methods. These methods will be able to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the students.

### **10. Life-long learners:**

The key skill to be acquired to be the best among teachers is great dedication and continuous learning. Be it learning the subject or even technology, the key to a successful teacher is to be a learner always, acquiring new skills and new knowledge.

To sum up, a teacher can be characterised as being competent not purely on the basis of one's own professional development, but only when

he/she gives complete freedom to the students to express freely without any inhibition in the classroom. Moreover, a teacher who is competent enough moves to the extent of developing the essential competencies among his/ her students and shapes the students in order to face the society in which he/she has to live. A

competent teacher develops the students even beyond the curricular expectations. A teacher who can bring out the best in a child can also bestow great efforts to bring a great change in the lives of the students. This can happen only if the teacher is able to identify the competencies and develop them as required.

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