



**CAMBRIDGE CELTYL TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMME  
PRE-INTERVIEW TASK**

**1. Read the following quote:**

*“Young children do not come to the language classroom empty-handed. They bring with them an already well-established set of instincts, skills and characteristics which will help them to learn another language.”* (Halliwell.S, 1992:3,Longman)

Make a list of some of these instincts, skills and characteristics you think 5 – 10 year olds have:

**2. Children are creative with grammatical concepts and rules. What rules/concepts of language underlie the following statements from children.** (Sources: Halliwell.S, 1992, Longman, Lefrancois, G. 2001, Wadsworth)

‘Don’t unring’ – (a four year old who wanted a telephone caller to hold the line).

‘Switch off the dark. I don’t like the dark shining’.

‘I dood my work and eated all my food’.

‘I made my room pitch clean!’

**3. How would you put across the meaning of the following words to a 6 year old ESL learner?**

Angry    Fire truck    (to) pull        through

**4. Re-write the following instructions to suit a class of 5 – 10 year old ESL learners:**

“Could you put your pencils away now and pay attention to what I’m saying?”

‘I’m afraid I don’t understand what you’re trying to say, dear, could you repeat that?’

‘We are about to play a game so I need you all to stop making so much noise otherwise you won’t know what to do’.

**5. How would you deal with the following situations?**

You have set up a guessing game between four children, two girls and two boys. They each have to pick up a picture card and the others in the group have to guess what it is. The two boys grab handfuls of the cards and start throwing them at each other. One girl starts crying.

You are singing *Heads, Shoulder, Knees and Toes* with your class and are adding in actions as you sing. You ask the children to sing and act along with you but none of them respond.

**6. What experience of learning a language do you have? What methods and approaches were used? Do you think they were suitable methods for teaching young children? Why/why not?**