Young Learners’ Language Strategy Use Survey

Instructions: Below are a series of statements about language learning. In the line in front of each statement: Mark a plus (+) if the statement really describes you. Mark a check (✓) if the statement is somewhat like you. Write a minus (-) if the statement isn’t like you.

Listening Strategies
What I do to listen more:

___ 1. I listen to the radio in the language.
___ 2. I watch TV shows in the language.
___ 3. I go to movies that use the language.
___ 4. I listen to the language if I am in a restaurant or see movies in the language.
___ 5. If I hear people speaking the language, I listen.
Add anything else you do to listen more:

What I do to understand sounds:

___ 6. I find sounds in the language that are like sounds in English.
___ 7. I try to remember unfamiliar sounds I hear.
___ 8. I ask the person to repeat the new sound.
___ 9. I listen to the rise and fall of sounds (the music of the language).
Add anything else you do to understand sounds:

What I do to understand what I hear:

___ 10. I listen for the important words.
___ 11. I listen for what seems interesting.
___ 12. I listen for words that are repeated.
Add anything else you do to understand the meaning:

What I do if I still don’t understand what someone says:

___ 13. I ask the person to repeat.
___ 14. I ask the person to slow down.
___ 15. I ask a question.
___ 16. I guess the meaning from the person’s tone (such as angry or happy).
___ 17. I guess the meaning from how the person moves or stands.
___ 18. I guess the meaning from what I heard before.
Add anything else you do to if you still don’t understand what someone says:
Vocabulary Strategies
What I do to memorize new words:
__19. I group the words by type (e.g., nouns, verbs, adjectives).
__20. I match the sound of the new word with the sound of a word I know.
__21. I use rhymes to remember new words.
__22. I make a picture of new words in my mind.
__23. I write the new word in a sentence.
__24. I write the new word on a card.
__25. I go over new words several times at first.
__26. Later I go to remind myself about words I learned earlier.
Add anything else you do to memorize new words:

Speaking Strategies
What I do to practice speaking:
__27. I make the sounds of the language until I can say them well.
__28. I imitate the way native speakers talk.
__29. I say new expressions over to myself.
__30. I practice using new grammar forms when I talk.
Add anything else you do to practice speaking:

What I do to talk with other people:
__31. I start conversations.
__32. I change the subject if I don't have the words I need.
__33. I plan what I am going to say.
__34. I ask the other person to correct me when I talk.
Add anything else you do to talk with other people:

When I can't think of a word or phrase I want to say:
__35. I ask the person to help me.
__36. I try to say it a different way.
__37. I use words from my own language.
__38. I use words from my own language but say them with sounds from the new language.
__39. I move my hands or body so the person will understand me.
Add anything else you do when you can't think of a word or phrase you want to say:
Reading Strategies
What I do to read more:
__40. I read a lot in the language.
__41. I read for fun in the language.
__42. I find things to read that interest me.
__43. I look for things to read that are not too hard.
Add anything else you do to read more:

What I do to understand what I read:
__44. I skim over a reading to get the main idea.
__45. I look for important facts.
__46. I read things more than once.
__47. I look at the pictures and what is under the pictures.
__48. I look at the headings.
__49. I think about what will come next in the reading.
__50. I stop to think about what I just read.
__51. I underline parts that seem important.
__52. I mark the reading in different colors to help me understand.
__53. I check to see how much I understood.
Add anything else you do to understand what you read:

What I do when I don't understand what I read:
__54. I guess the meaning by using clues from other parts of the passage.
__55. I use a dictionary to find the meaning.
Add anything else you do when you don't understand what you read:

Writing Strategies
What I do to write more:
__56. If the alphabet is different, I practice writing it.
__57. I take class notes in the language.
__58. I write other notes in the language.
__59. I write letters to other people in the language.
__60. I write papers in the language.
Add anything else you do to write more:
What I do to write better:
   __61. I plan what I am going to write.
   __62. I use a dictionary or glossary.
   __63. I read what I wrote to see if it is good.
   __64. I ask someone to correct my writing.
   __65. I rewrite what I wrote to make it better.
   __66. I use the spell checker on the computer.
   __67. I use the grammar checker on the computer.
Add anything else you do to write better:

What I do if I cannot think of a word or phrase I want to write:
   __68. I ask someone for the word or phrase I need.
   __69. I try to say it a different way.
   __70. I use words from my own language.
   __71. I use words from my own language but add new endings to those words.
Add anything else you do when you can't think of a word or phrase you want to write:

**Translation Strategies**
What I do when I translate:
   __72. I plan what I want to say or write in my language and then translate it into the new language.
   __73. I translate when reading to make sure I understand it.
   __74. While I am listening to someone, I translate parts of what they say into my own language to help remember it.
Add anything else you do when you translate:

What I do to think in the new language:
   __75. I put my language out of my mind.
   __76. I try to understand without translating.
Add anything else you do to think in the new language:

If you have time, read the survey again. Find strategies that interest you. Ask the teacher about them.