

SNACK TIME

Snack time is very important. If you are an evening class, many of your students (and possibly teachers) have come straight from work and have not had any dinner. A break for snacks about half-way through the class time is a welcome break. They need a chance to speak their native language and relax their brain.

Teachers need to attend snack time. They are as much on duty there as they are in the classroom. This is a time to get to know your students in a more personal way in a more relaxed setting.

Jesus said that if you do it for the least of them, you have done it for him. What would you serve Jesus? Consider this when deciding what to serve. Make this a priority budget item. Don't over indulge, but don't skimp either. It's really nice to have healthy snacks – fruit and vegetables – and if you have a lot of Asian students – hot tea.

Recruit a snack coordinator if possible. Otherwise, it is your responsibility as the Director. If you do not have a budget for this, ask people in the church to sign up to bring things each week (good recruiting tool). Some programs have the teachers take turns bringing snacks. Because of the revolving door of attendance, it is very hard to ask students to bring snacks.

You can have special activities during snack time. This is a good time to bring out the guitar or have a piano and all learn a song together as a big group. If you have an overhead projector and screen, you can use this time to teach idioms using pictures from books you can purchase on the subject. But make sure that not all of the time is spent in activity. Let your students relax a little.

You can also occasionally (not more than twice a semester) have an extended snack time and make it into a themed event. For instance, around Valentine's Day you can decorate your snack area with hearts, etc... Give a short talk on the origin of Valentine's Day. Play Valentine games that you set up ahead of time. They are still learning English, but in a more casual setting. Other themes to consider: Super Bowl, Harvest Time, Christmas, Kentucky Derby, Memorial Day, Easter. They especially enjoy anything that is truly American in culture.