

## Teacher Development Interactive (TDI) with Karen Seekings sponsored by Pearson

Eltas Event Review by Karin Scheffold-Mokler

July 23, 2016, held at ISM Hochschule, Stuttgart

Karen Seekings and Angela Bauer-Seekings (Pearson) gave us an interesting and lively introduction to the interactive online course TDI (Teacher Development Interactive). This online course is designed to train and certify teachers to deliver effective instruction. It consists of six online modules focusing on different teaching skills leading to an internationally recognised certificate within twelve months.

The participants were invited to work in groups, taking over the role of students as Karen led them through various tasks, for example:

### What are the sub-skills of speaking?

Many proposals were collected from our various groups and compared with those from the TDI course, for example: fluency, listening and comprehension, socially appropriate language, vocabulary, pronunciation and body language.

A short video of a teaching situation was then shown and the participants discussed what could have been better and how they usually work with their students. Then Karen handed out a practice task with different speaking situations and the participants had to decide which sub-skills needed improvement. This was an interesting exercise and led to a discussion regarding how to correct mistakes in the classroom and encourage fluency at the same time.

### Comparing two warmers

The participants were invited to compare two warmers, and decide which warmer practised more speaking sub-skills. The first warmer asked the student to talk about their last weekend using several questions: Did you have a good weekend? What was the best thing about your weekend? What was the worst thing about your weekend?

In the second warmer A tells B about a holiday in great detail. B shows interest by using devices such as eye contact, nodding, saying "Is that so?", "Really?", and "Uh-huh". The groups decided that the second warmer would practise more speaking sub-skills including listening comprehension, body language and fluency.

### Retelling a newspaper article

Two different articles were read and discussed in pairs. Then partners were switched and someone else had to be found who had read the other newspaper article. Each partner retold their story to their new partner in an interesting and convincing way.

The listener also had to ask questions and check understanding as well as use a variety of listener response discourse markers. This was great fun because we moved around and got to know other participants.

This was another great workshop which was topped off with wonderful cherries, grapes, biscuits and refreshing drinks.

Karin Scheffold-Mokler studied English and German at the University of Tübingen. She has worked as a translator and English teacher for industrial companies for more than 20 years. She is also presently teaching English at the VHS Ludwigsburg.

