

Some Academic Suggestions:

- Adopt a reward card system. The teacher (and secretaries) can give and take reward cards to or from the students. The reward cards can be used to buy various prizes from the school, such as pencils, pencil cases, toy cars, etc.
- Find a curriculum with a textbook which has a corresponding workbook, audio material, and most importantly, related flashcards.
- Though it could be expensive, having an on-sight, experienced, foreign academic-director/teacher-trainer could make all the difference at these early stages of the school's formation. He should help design the content of every class, and the relationship of the various class levels. He should also help assure new teachers are maintaining the quality, consistency, and planned coursework of the school. Choose this person very carefully. The wrong person will just be a big waste of money. The right person will insure the success of the teachers and the satisfaction of the students.
- Do not confuse Phonics with Pronunciation. Phonics is a tool to teach reading to students who can already speak. As such, it is a useful tool. It is also possible to adopt it to studying the sounds of English, but if students want to learn correct pronunciation, they must use their ears, not their eyes. Furthermore, I am not aware of any Phonics book which accurately and completely describes all the sounds of English or all the possible variations of each letter of the alphabet.
- Forbidding Chinese in the classroom can help maintain classroom control and also forces the students to try to express themselves in English. However, total immersion policies should be abandoned where needed, in favor of efficiency and to avoid leaving students totally confused, particularly with grammar rules.
- Students should clearly not be allowed to leave the classroom, perhaps even their seats without the teacher's permission.