Task of the week:

1. **Choose one Sprogforum magazine article and write a summary of it**

***Karen Lund: Is communicative teaching communicative? (page.26-33)***

She talks about the fact that some teachers might think that they focus on communicative teaching, but instead it is very controlled and not very communicative. She mentions VanPatten and his three recurring misconceptions dealing with some ideas that communicative teaching is only appear to be oral, that communicative tasks are only concluding or summing-up tasks in general and at last that that some teachers use some typical tasks in their teaching; description of illustration structured question-answer, structured role play and interviews in pairs.

Karen Lund stresses that communicative teaching does not only appear in an oral form, but also in a written form. We have a responsible for conversations and its outcome, when we are communicating with other people both oral and written. She then focuses on the importance of the communicative approaches in classroom. She talks about how learners develop their communication by communicating – learning by doing so to speak. Tasks according to communicative awareness must tend to clarify communicative or social purposes. You need to actualize it for the students, so they according to this awareness will look at communicative teaching in a more understanding and motivating way. The teaching must be more student – oriented rather than the teacher asking, controlling and forcing answers from the students. She mentions some criteria for communicative tasks made by Pica, Kanagy & Falodun; does a task invites a two -way communication and are all the communicators equally suited for the task and conversation, does the communicators and conversation centre around the same goal and at last is it possible for the students to reach a common solution?

She then mentions some grey zones in our work with communicative teaching. She says that often we intend to look a language in a non-critic way, instead we must focus on some linguistic aims for our teaching, some dealing with fluency, a high degree of correctness and also complexity in their spoken and written language. Pia Zinn Ohrts mentions the importance of tasks being a lot about content and on form. It is a lot about how you ask questions in class – authentic questions you might say. Instead of asking the students about tenses and look at a grammatic schedule you will instead use a text showing some different forms of tenses used and then students will get and idea on how to look at these forms in a text and use it to understand time difference and meaning. You therefor need to focus on creating meaning in a form-based way and then you can create a brighter look on the whole content.

Karen Lund concludes this article by stressing that ways of teaching communicatively requires a focus on finding some techniques and pedagogical forms where students have some opportunities to be creative and testing hypotheses. This must take place in a good, positive and safe learning environment.

1. **On the basis of at least one Sprogforum article, try to think and write about how you could teach / work with vocabulary learning, language acquisition or communicative competence in the Folkeskole?**

I think it is very important to be aware on your approach as a teacher. Karen Lund also mentions some problems dealing with the teacher´s intentions about communicative teaching in class and not fulfilling them in practice. Before you go in class and present a communicative approach to your students you need to be very detailed in you planning of tasks and activities in class. You need to ask yourself; Is this teaching student-oriented? Are the students able to sit down and talk and solve these tasks communicatively with each other? Will the teacher function as a guide or a leader? I think it is important to be aware of the above-mentioned criteria for communicative tasks.

I think it is a very nice view to look at form and content when you are planning your lesson. To be aware of the fact that it has to be meaningful for the students to learn a specific topic and to give them a solid foundation to strengthen and expand their knowledge. It is important to actualize it for the students maybe by using some spontaneous themes to talk about and writing a letter to a friend who is living in London and maybe the students are to find out how to ask a waitress for a cup of tea and if they do not know how to ask her, then the are to come up with a different approach and way of communicating (use of body language or write it down for her?). It will then focus a lot on realistic and authentic situations in which both gives the students an idea on how to look at form and content.

1. **On the basis of at least one Sprogforum article, reflect on and write about how you could transform and if needed redidactisize the content of your chosen Sprogforum magazine article for the Folkeskole**

This article is focusing a lot on the practical aspect of communicative teaching and it gives some manageable advice for the teacher to follow in his/her planning of communicative teaching. I therefore think that this article is very useful for a teacher intending to focus more on communicative teaching in the Folkeskole. It gives a fine overview on what you need to be aware of and notice when carrying out this teaching in class.