

My name is Chunhua Cao and I have been teaching Chinese to adults from non-Chinese background in Tampa Bay Chinese School for almost one year now. I am also in charge of the class of kids from non-Chinese families.

I got my bachelor's degree from Hunan Normal University, a base of training teachers, and my master's degree from Shanghai International Studies University. I majored in English Language and Culture, teaching overseas students Chinese in our university and was well received. From that time on, I have been interested in teaching Chinese to non-Chinese background.

The students from my adult class vary in age, but they are all self-motivated in studying Chinese. As beginners, we chose Conversational Chinese 301 as our text book, a fantastic book with illustration of daily conversations, grammar part and cultural tips. It also has a DVD of the conversation in the book to help people develop conversational skills. After two semesters' study, my student's language ability of listening, speaking, and recognizing Chinese characters has improved a lot. In class, I try my best to solidify the use of Chinese we have learnt before. For example, I will make some English sentences for them to translate into Chinese by using the expressions and sentence structures we learnt the previous week. To get acquainted with a different language and culture is fascinating.

As for the kids class, the students age from 6 to 10 and almost all of them are from non-Chinese families. We are now using the textbook of Chinese Paradise – the Fun Way to Learn Chinese, which is an interesting series of books aiming at teaching kids how to express simple ideas in Chinese. It also includes some introduction of Chinese culture and traditions. I teach the kids some simple daily conversations and sometimes singing in Chinese. The new textbook has many good illustrations in pictures, bringing very nice visual effect. I give the students opportunities to participate in class activities so that they will not be distracted away from class.