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PRESCHOOL EDUCATION AS AN IMPORTANT MEANS OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract: This article highlights the role and significance of the preschool education system in the comprehensive development of children. The study analyzes effective educational and upbringing tools that ensure the physical, cognitive, speech, social-emotional, and creative development of preschool-aged children. It substantiates that play-based activities, communicative exercises, visual and musical activities, as well as the use of modern pedagogical technologies, contribute to the development of children's individual abilities. The article emphasizes the leading role of preschool education in shaping a child's personality, its importance in preparing children for school, and the integration of national and universal values into the educational process. The research findings demonstrate the necessity of improving preschool education as an important means of child development.

Keywords: preschool education, child development, play-based activity, educational process, school readiness, pedagogical technologies, personality development.

Introduction. Today, in the context of social development, the qualitative growth of human capital and the formation of future generations as well-rounded individuals, the preschool education system occupies an important place. The preschool age is one of the most responsible and decisive stages in a child's life, during which the foundations of physical, cognitive, speech, social-emotional, and moral development are established. Therefore, preschool education is recognized as the most important and effective means of comprehensive child development.

Educational and upbringing processes organized in preschool institutions are carried out with consideration of children's age and individual characteristics and are aimed at developing their natural interests, needs, and abilities. In particular, play activities, creative tasks, speech development exercises, musical and physical education help to form important skills such as independent thinking, communication, and problem-solving. This ensures children's successful adaptation to subsequent stages of education, especially primary school.

In the current era of globalization and rapid development of information technologies, new tasks are being set for preschool education. Introducing modern pedagogical technologies into the educational process and developing creativity, critical thinking, and communicative competencies in children have become urgent issues. At the same time, harmonizing national and universal values in education and fostering patriotism, diligence, and social activity in children are of great importance.

The relevance of this topic lies in the need to scientifically analyze preschool education as a means of child development and to identify approaches aimed at increasing its effectiveness. Improving the content and methods of pedagogical activities with preschool children makes it possible to further develop their intellectual potential, creative abilities, and social adaptability. The purpose of this study is to highlight the role and importance of preschool education in the comprehensive development of children and to analyze effective tools and pedagogical approaches used in the educational and upbringing process. The issue of preschool education and its role in child development has been widely studied in pedagogy, psychology, and educational methodology. Scientific literature interprets preschool age as the most important

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stage of personality development, during which a child's intellectual, physical, social, and emotional aspects develop intensively.

Classical pedagogical studies emphasize the educational significance of preschool education. In the works of K.D. Ushinsky, A.S. Makarenko, and V.A. Sukhomlinsky, the unity of education and upbringing in the comprehensive development of children is substantiated. These scholars emphasize the necessity of organizing the educational process in accordance with children's age and individual characteristics.

Modern pedagogical research further elaborates on the developmental function of preschool education. Psychologist-pedagogues such as L.S. Vygotsky, A.N. Leontiev, and D.B. Elkonin scientifically substantiated the leading role of play activity in child development. According to their research, through play, children understand the surrounding environment, develop communication skills, and acquire social experience.

Issues of improving the preschool education system are also widely addressed in the works of Uzbek scholars. In particular, state documents aimed at developing preschool education, the *"Ilk Qadam"* State Curriculum, and the *Preschool Education Concept* define tasks related to the comprehensive development of children. These documents emphasize the use of modern pedagogical technologies, the development of children's individual abilities, and preparation for school.

In addition, recent scientific publications note that innovative approaches, integrated activities, STEAM elements, and the use of information and communication technologies in preschool education have a positive impact on child development. Researchers also highlight the importance of a supportive educational environment and cooperation between educators and parents.

Overall, the literature review shows that preschool education is substantiated in many scientific studies as an important means of child development. However, further improvement of the educational process based on modern requirements and the introduction of new pedagogical approaches remain relevant.

The analysis of scientific literature and research results once again confirms the invaluable role of preschool education in the comprehensive development of children. The discussion reveals that purposeful and systematic educational activities conducted during the preschool period create a solid foundation for children's future life and educational success. Therefore, preschool education should be regarded not merely as a care stage, but as an important pedagogical period of personality development.

The research results indicate that play activity plays a leading role in child development. Through play, children not only learn about the environment but also understand social relationships and develop skills such as independent decision-making, communication, and cooperation. Thus, the effective use of play technologies in preschool institutions should be one of the main directions of the educational process.

Another important aspect identified during the discussion is the role of the educator. The professional competence, pedagogical knowledge, and creativity of educators directly influence the effectiveness of preschool education. Educators who are able to apply modern pedagogical technologies and take into account children's individual characteristics have a significant positive impact on child development.

The discussion also highlights the importance of cooperation with parents in preschool education. Desired results can be achieved only when the educational process is conducted not only within the institution but also in close collaboration with families. Cooperation with

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parents plays an important role in children's social adaptation, emotional stability, and moral development.

The conducted analysis and discussions clearly demonstrate the important and irreplaceable role of preschool education in the comprehensive development of children. The preschool period is a decisive stage in the formation of a child's personality, during which the foundations of physical, cognitive, speech, social-emotional, and moral development are laid. Therefore, preschool education should be regarded as the most important pedagogical means of child development.

The research findings show that educational processes organized in preschool institutions achieve high effectiveness when they correspond to children's natural interests and needs. Play-based activities, creative tasks, speech development exercises, and physical education contribute to the development of independent thinking, communication skills, and social adaptability.

Furthermore, the effectiveness of preschool education largely depends on educators' professional competence and pedagogical approaches. Strengthening cooperation between educators and parents ensures the integrity of the educational process and supports children's moral and emotional development.

In conclusion, improving the preschool education system in accordance with modern requirements, introducing innovative approaches, and strengthening cooperation between educators and parents are key factors in ensuring comprehensive child development. These approaches create a solid foundation for raising well-rounded, creative, and socially active individuals in the future.

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