

EFFECTIVE METHODS OF TEACHING ENGLISH TO PRESCHOOL AND PRIMARY SCHOOL LEARNERS

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Abstract: Teaching English to preschool and primary school learners requires special methodological approaches that correspond to children's cognitive, psychological, and emotional development. Early foreign language instruction plays a crucial role in forming positive attitudes toward language learning and developing basic communicative skills. This article analyzes effective methods of teaching English to young learners, including play-based learning, Total Physical Response, songs, storytelling, and visual-based instruction. The study demonstrates that interactive and multisensory methods significantly increase learners' motivation, language retention, and communicative competence.

Keywords: young learners, preschool education, primary education, EFL methodology, interactive methods

Annotatsiya: Mazkur maqolada maktabgacha hamda boshlang'ich ta'lim yoshidagi bolalarga ingliz tilini o'qitishda qo'llaniladigan samarali metodlar ilmiy-nazariy va amaliy jihatdan tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqotda bolalarning yosh va psixologik xususiyatlarini hisobga olgan holda o'yin texnologiyalari, Total Physical Response (TPR), qo'shiqlar, hikoya qilish va ko'rgazmali vositalardan foydalanishning pedagogik ahamiyati yoritiladi. Tadqiqot natijalari interaktiv va multisensor yondashuvlar bolalarning ingliz tilini tez va samarali o'zlashtirishiga, ularning motivatsiyasini oshirishga hamda nutqiy kompetensiyasini shakllantirishga ijobiy ta'sir ko'rsatishini tasdiqlaydi.

Kalit so'zlar: maktabgacha ta'lim, boshlang'ich ta'lim, ingliz tilini o'qitish metodikasi, yosh o'rganuvchilar, interaktiv metodlar

Introduction

In recent years, teaching English to children at an early age has become a significant educational priority worldwide. In Uzbekistan, early English language instruction has been introduced at preschool and primary school levels as part of educational reforms aimed at developing global communication skills. Teaching young learners differs considerably from teaching adults due to children's psychological characteristics, learning styles, and limited attention span.

Young learners acquire language naturally through imitation, repetition, and meaningful interaction. Therefore, traditional grammar-based methods are not effective for this age group. Instead, teaching methods should be communicative, interactive, and emotionally engaging.

Psychological Characteristics of Young Learners

Preschool and primary school learners possess specific cognitive and emotional features that influence the learning process. They have strong imitation abilities, short attention spans, and a high level of curiosity. Children learn best through concrete objects, actions, and visual input rather than abstract explanations.

Consequently, teaching English to young learners should involve activities that stimulate their senses and emotions. A supportive and stress-free classroom environment encourages children to participate actively and develop positive attitudes toward foreign language learning.

Play-Based Learning

Play-based learning is one of the most effective methods of teaching English to young learners. Games allow children to learn language subconsciously while enjoying the learning process. Through games, children practice vocabulary, pronunciation, and simple sentence structures without fear of making mistakes.

Language games such as role-plays, action games, and guessing games promote communication and social interaction. Research indicates that play-based learning increases motivation and improves long-term retention of language material.

Total Physical Response (TPR)

Total Physical Response is a widely used method in teaching young learners. This method involves responding to verbal input with physical actions. For example, children follow commands such as *stand up*, *sit down*, or *jump*.

TPR reduces anxiety, enhances listening comprehension, and supports kinesthetic learning styles. It is particularly effective at the initial stages of language acquisition, as children understand meaning through actions before producing speech.

Teaching English through Songs and Storytelling

Songs and chants are powerful tools for teaching English to young learners. Music helps children remember words and expressions more easily through rhythm and repetition. Songs also improve pronunciation and listening skills.

Storytelling develops imagination and listening comprehension. Picture books and short stories supported by visual aids help children understand meaning in context. Story-based activities also enrich vocabulary and introduce basic cultural elements.

Visual and Multimedia-Based Instruction



Visual aids play a crucial role in teaching English to children. Flashcards, posters, real objects, and multimedia resources support comprehension and maintain learners' attention. Visual input helps children associate words with images, making learning more effective.

Educational videos and interactive digital tools can further enhance motivation when used appropriately.

The Role of the Teacher

The teacher's role in early language education is essential. Teachers should act as facilitators, motivators, and role models. Positive reinforcement, praise, and encouragement create a supportive learning atmosphere and help children develop confidence in using English.

Conclusion

Teaching English to preschool and primary school learners requires age-appropriate, interactive, and learner-centered methods. Play-based learning, Total Physical Response, songs, storytelling, and visual instruction are among the most effective approaches. These methods not only facilitate language acquisition but also foster positive attitudes toward learning English. Implementing multisensory and communicative techniques ensures successful early foreign language education.

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