

THE IMPORTANCE AND STRATEGIES OF TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

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Annotation: in our country, much attention is paid to the preschool education system today. This article will talk about the benefits of teaching foreign languages in preschool education, the transition to classes using modern strategies and modern methodologies.

Keywords: post-school education, foreign language, strategy, modern approach, cognitive, game, parents, collaboration.

INTRODUCTION

In our increasingly globalized world, the ability to speak multiple languages is an invaluable skill. Introducing foreign language education in preschool provides a strong foundation for lifelong learning and opens up numerous cognitive, social, and cultural benefits for young children. Early exposure to a second language is not just about learning to communicate in another tongue; it is about fostering a well-rounded development that can significantly enhance a child's future prospects.

Cognitive Benefits. One of the most significant advantages of teaching foreign languages to preschoolers is the positive impact on cognitive development. Research shows that young children who learn a second language demonstrate enhanced brain function, improved memory, and better problem-solving skills. The process of learning and switching between languages exercises the brain, increasing neural plasticity and making it easier for children to acquire new information across various domains. This early mental stimulation sets the stage for academic success in later years.

Cultural Awareness and Social Skills. Learning a foreign language also introduces children to new cultures and perspectives, fostering a sense of global awareness and open-mindedness. This cultural exposure helps young learners appreciate diversity and develop empathy towards people from different backgrounds. Additionally, the social skills gained from interacting in a new language can enhance communication abilities and build confidence, which are crucial for personal and professional relationships in the future.

Long-term Educational and Career Advantages. The benefits of early foreign language education extend well into adulthood. Studies have linked early language learning to higher academic achievement in subjects such as reading and mathematics. Moreover, proficiency in multiple languages can open up a wide range of career opportunities in today's global economy. By laying the groundwork in preschool, children are better prepared to become competitive candidates in the job market and active participants in the global community.

Effective Strategies for Teaching Foreign Languages in Preschool

1. Immersive Environment.

Creating an immersive language environment is one of the most effective ways to teach young

children. This involves surrounding them with the target language through signs, labels, and educational materials. Simple, repetitive phrases, songs, and daily routines conducted in the foreign language help children become familiar with its sounds and structures.

2. Play-based Learning.

Incorporating language learning into play activities makes the process enjoyable and engaging. Role-playing, games, and storytelling are excellent methods for teaching new vocabulary and phrases. Using puppets, toys, and props can also capture children's interest and make learning feel like an adventure.

3. Interactive Activities.

Interactive activities like singing songs, chanting rhymes, and playing language games encourage active participation and make learning memorable. Arts and crafts projects that integrate new vocabulary provide a creative outlet for expression and reinforce language skills.

4. Consistent Exposure.

Regular and consistent exposure to the foreign language is crucial. Integrating the language into daily routines—such as greetings, snack time, and clean-up—ensures that children practice frequently. Short, frequent sessions help maintain interest and aid retention.

5. Visual and Auditory Aids.

Visual aids like flashcards, picture books, and videos support vocabulary acquisition and concept reinforcement. Auditory resources, including songs, stories, and audio recordings, enhance listening skills and pronunciation.

6. Parental Involvement.

Engaging parents in their child's language learning journey can significantly boost progress. Providing resources and activities for parents to use at home creates a supportive learning environment. Workshops and events can demonstrate how parents can contribute to their child's language education.

Challenges and Considerations.

While the benefits are clear, there are challenges to implementing foreign language education in preschool. Ensuring consistent practice and exposure is essential, as is balancing language learning with other educational goals. Teacher training is crucial to equip educators with the necessary skills and resources. Moreover, integrating language learning with other areas of the curriculum through themes and projects can provide a holistic educational experience.

CONCLUSION.

Teaching foreign languages in preschool education offers a wealth of cognitive, social, and cultural benefits. By adopting effective strategies and overcoming challenges, educators can create a stimulating and supportive environment that fosters early language acquisition. This foundational skill not only enriches children's educational experiences but also prepares them for a successful and globally connected future.

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