

THE IMPORTANCE OF PEDAGOGICAL SKILLS IN TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES TO CHILDREN OF PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE

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Abstract: *This article investigated effective pedagogical skills that are important teaching foreign languages to children of preschool age. In this article, several effective methods and activities that make children engaged in the lessons are provided. By analyzing a corpus of scholarly articles, we conducted this scientific research. This study includes qualitative and secondary data analysis to identify the importance of effective teaching methods in foreign languages.*

Keywords: *foreign language teaching, pedagogical skills, engaging, enthusiasm, young children, children learning.*

As we all know, in recent years, special attention has been paid to the education sector in our country, Uzbekistan. In addition, the need to teach and learn foreign languages has increased. Therefore, our country has begun to create great opportunities for organizations in the direction of preschool education. In this regard, our esteemed President has issued several laws and decrees to improve the quality of education and improve the teaching of foreign languages. We can mention, for example, laws No. 312 "On the effective organization of measures to popularize the study of foreign languages" adopted in 2021, and No. 595 "On preschool education and upbringing" adopted in 2019. According to these laws, the popularization of foreign language learning, the establishment of contacts with foreign and local partners, the implementation of inclusive education and upbringing in preschool educational institutions, the intellectual, spiritual, moral, ethical, and aesthetic development of children of preschool age, and several other priority areas are discussed. It should be noted that the age of the child is also of great importance in the child's education. Even though the activities and work of preschool children are simple and elementary, their learning abilities are high, and during this period, child psychology is of great importance.

There are several differences between adult learning and children's learning, as children are more enthusiastic and energetic when it comes to learning compared to adolescents. However, during the learning process, children tend to lose their interest and attention toward the ongoing lesson easily and quickly. Additionally, it is difficult for children to keep motivated and engaged in the lessons. Compared to older learners, children find it more difficult to use language to talk about language; that is, they do not have the same access to metalanguage, which teachers might use to explain concepts like discourse or grammar. Psychologist A.P. Usova clearly shows to what extent preschool children learn lessons. That is, it defines the mastery of lessons in children in three ways. The first degree is interested in studying, active in lessons, and able to control their actions, while the second degree is

relatively weaker, that is, the indicators of mastering lessons are relatively less developed. In the third type, the external discipline of children is considered a stage in the formation of educational activity. According to the famous German psychologist O. Kron, children from the age of three can master the knowledge given to them, that is, they can gain knowledge. During these three years, that is, during the first three years, the child receives knowledge not according to the plans and programs drawn up by his parents or educators, but according to his program. Later, the child begins to adapt to the plans drawn up by the educators and receives knowledge according to this program. Therefore, to interest the child in learning, that is, to teach foreign languages to children easily and understandably, and at the same time interestingly, we can use several modern methods. After all, as stated in the "National Program for Training", the preschool education system is the first stage of continuous education. For this reason, teaching children and forming skills in them, of course, requires great responsibility from a specialist.

Effective pedagogical skills play a vital part in educating foreign languages to children of preschool age. These skills enable teachers to create a more inclusive, engaging, and positive learning environment, engage children in the language learning process, and assess their progress accurately.

Creating a positive and effective language learning environment includes the following actions:

- Establishing a close relationship with children. Teachers who effective pedagogical skills try to build a rapport with their students to make them feel more comfortable with the learning process and participate in the lessons actively. This method paves the way for a positive language learning environment where students are more likely to take risks during the learning process and participate in the class.

- Organize thought-provoking and engaging lessons. Educators with pedagogical skills often try to create a stimulating and interesting learning environment that is relevant to all young learners. It is recommended to use a variety of methods, activities, and techniques to keep students motivated and enthusiastic to learn.

- Manage the classroom successfully. It is important to manage the classroom effectively, ensuring that all students are on task and learning. Young learners are often curious about everything, so all teachers need to control them efficiently. Managing the time separated for the lesson successfully is also an essential part of pedagogical skills. Teachers should establish clear rules and procedures, and they should be able to maintain a positive and orderly learning environment.

- Apply various foreign language teaching methods and approaches. Many skilled teachers incorporate a variety of effective language teaching methods into their lessons to meet the needs of all learners. Teachers should use effective teaching methods, such as gamification method to keep young children interested in the lesson.

Taking into account the children's interest in bright, colorful, and beautiful things, teaching them foreign a language using various pictures during the lesson is another one of the most effective methods. The use of cards with pictures of various objects, visual aids,

posters, and colorful posters during the lesson helps to vividly depict the basic concepts in the child's mind and also enhances their imagination.

□ Simon says: during the foreign language teaching process, teachers give commands in the target language, such as, “Simon says jump up and down”, “Simon says give the pencil to your friend”, “Simon says sit down and stand up”, “Simon says touch your head”. This method can hook the attention of children easily and can keep them motivated and active during the lesson.

□ I spy: children should work with their peers and they describe an object in the classroom in the target language. Other children have to listen to it carefully and guess what it is. For example, they could say “I spy something that is used for writing topic, date, and others” (blackboard).

□ UnlimBoto: teachers should prepare some bingo cards with images or words in the target language. In the next stages, they should call out the words or pictures in the target language and have children mark them off their cards.

□ Musical cards: in this game, children stand in a circle around a table, on which cards with pictures of various objects are placed. There is one less card than the number of children participating in the game. Music is played that is appropriate for the age of children, and the children begin to walk in a circle around the table. When the music stops, the children must take a card from the table. The child who does not manage to take one of the cards should name the picture in the target language and leave the game. The child who reaches the end of the game wins and is encouraged by the teacher.

Using the above methods, the lesson can be organized in such a way that it is attractive, useful, effective, and interesting for children. These methods greatly help the child to keep the lesson in his memory for a long time. Therefore, it is advisable to conduct foreign language lessons for children not under duress, but in a way that further increases their interest in the lesson. After all, in our rapidly developing world, learning a language is becoming the most important task. Teaching languages to children is an extremely necessary area. Because any knowledge they receive serves as the foundation for their achievements and successes in their future lives. Speaking about the importance of teaching foreign languages to preschool children, it is clear to everyone that learning foreign languages is a requirement of our rapidly developing time. Foreign language plays a large role in the ability to think on a global scale, to develop critical thinking skills, and to study the culture of the countries of the world. Therefore, we should never get tired of giving the younger generation knowledge in this area. And teaching these foreign languages to children of preschool age is of great importance.

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