

## THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATIONAL GAMES AND EFFECTIVE USE OF THEM IN TEACHING ENGLISH TO PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

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### ABSTRACT

The process of globalization requires people to learn several foreign languages in addition to their mother tongue. Current research shows that it is more effective to start this process at an early age. In our country, too, special attention is paid to this issue; programs are being developed on the basis of a new approach to the teaching of foreign languages, especially English, in cooperation with the world's leading organizations and universities. In the last 3 years, this process has been particularly evolving in preschool education. Large-scale English language projects are being implemented in public and private preschools. This article discusses the importance of the use of educational games in the teaching of foreign languages, especially English in early childhood, and the ease with which language skills can be easily acquired through a variety of games.

**Keywords:** foreign language, language learning at an early age, educational play, activities, fine metrics, eye-hand coordination, active learning types, block play in English, role-playing games, manual labour.

### INTRODUCTION

In kindergarten and school age, play is the child's most basic and favourite hobby, so the child also explores the world around them through play. If foreign languages are also taught in a mixed game, this will increase the effectiveness of language skills several times. Play not only increases a child's physical activity, but it also helps shape mental alertness. The game also helps the child to strengthen his self-confidence, to form social relations with others. For this reason, parents and educators should encourage children to learn through play as much as possible. It is through play that children learn and discover their talents. To achieve this, it is advisable to use an environment that activates the sensory organs, including active forms of education, such as visual, auditory, kinaesthetic. Educational games include playing musical instruments, singing songs, reciting poems, dancing, playing games, watching videos, and making various things through handicrafts.

### LITERATURE REVIEW

Scientists around the world have unanimously agreed that a child can easily learn a foreign language by the age of 10. During this period, the child learns languages mechanically, not by understanding, so the use and pronunciation of a foreign language is easy to master. But even so, given that a child is born with the ability to imitate the sounds of any language, those who intend to start the process early also make up the majority. As a result of research conducted by scientists from developed countries on the study of the human brain, it was found that the

period from birth to the age of three is the most important period of a child's development. The brain activity of a three-year-old child is twice as fast as and better than that of an adult, as evidenced by this study. Therefore, according to English experts, the introduction of a second language in the second and third years of life will help the child to master it easily. But in any case, we must not forget that it is extremely important to take into account the child's psychological and language skills.

## **METHODOLOGY**

Every child is an individual, of course, their stages of development also differ from each other. According to psychologists, forcing a child to speak at an early age or trying to develop him or her in comparison to his or her peers often has the opposite effect and leads to poor results. When teaching a foreign language to children of kindergarten and primary school age, it is necessary to take into account the psycho-pedagogical features, that is, their curiosity and enthusiasm. It is also important to keep in mind that children may not be able to focus on one type of activity for long periods of time. Parents want their child to be mature in all respects, and in many cases try to give him or her loads of different subjects, language teaching, or sports activities, regardless of the child's psychological and physiological readiness. In most cases, when parents fail to achieve the expected result, they try to influence the child by reprimanding the child or comparing them to their peers. But both of these attempts weaken the child's motivation to learn and cause him to lose interest in the things around him. The role of parents and caregivers in preventing such tragedies is invaluable. The easiest and most acceptable way to teach a child to think freely, to increase his curiosity and motivation to explore the environment, to enrich the child's imagination, to reveal his creativity is this game. As children play, they put their ideas into practice, test hypotheses, acquire the necessary skills, use their imagination, and explore their own worlds.

The child is very curious by nature and he uses all his senses to explore the world around him. Since play is the main and favourite hobby of the child, if the child is introduced to the world around him, all the necessary knowledge and skills through play, the effectiveness of mastering the skills will increase several times. Play not only increases the child's physical activity, but also helps to shape his mental alertness. The game also helps the child to strengthen his self-confidence, to form social relations with others. This is why parents and caregivers should encourage children to learn through as much play as possible. It is through play that children learn and discover their talents. To achieve this, it is advisable to use an environment that activates the sensory organs, including active forms of education, such as visual, auditory, kinaesthetic. Educational games include playing musical instruments, singing songs, reciting poems, dancing, playing games, watching videos, and making various things through handicrafts. Games such as colour exhibitions, cards, competitions, role-playing games, making different shapes are one of the most fun ways to develop children's physical and mental activities.

When playing with plasticine, children develop fine motor skills. When children make shapes on plasticine, eye and hand activities are coordinated and hand and finger muscles are strengthened. These, in turn, are the most important skills before developing writing skills, as strong muscle strength and eye-hand coordination (visual-motor coordination) help children to hold and use writing instruments correctly and wisely. By playing with plasticine, children also learn symbols such as the colour, shape, and structure of objects.

In educational activities involving musical instruments, children learn to distinguish different tones. Children listen to the sound emanating from different instruments and begin to understand how it changes. The speed and stillness of the music move according to the high and low of the sound curtains.

When playing with transport toys, children test the force of friction and movement by moving up and down, forward and backward quickly and slowly.

When children play with blocks and cubes, they learn the concepts of color, shape, and decoration, as well as weight, size, height, length, vertical, and horizontal.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Young children learn through their emotions and actions, so learning English should also be done through these emotional feelings and behaviours. It is very important to provide young children with situations and activities that are fun and encourage them to communicate in order to learn English.

Although the goal of the activity is to teach English, it is important to ensure that children are involved in the activities, such as games, and that they are able to engage in these activities involuntarily and that they learn the foreign language as naturally as their mother tongue.

It is especially important to create all sorts of interesting and stimulating situations for young children to learn English and to use all available opportunities to ensure that children actively participate in it.

Since English is at the heart of any situation and activity, it is advisable that these activities be conducted in English in a fluent and understandable manner. It is necessary to shorten the communication in the native language and give the main emphasis to English. Of course, one of the first and most important successes in language teaching is the ability of the coach to engage the child with gestures, gestures and fluent English speech and tone of speech. In particular, language instructors will teach “Playing with blocks or legos”, “Dressing”, “Animals and their sounds”, “Crafts”. The use of educational activities such as Learn English with songs is one of the best ways to develop language learning skills in young children. By using these activities, we will have the opportunity to expand and develop children’s vocabulary, imagination and creative thinking.

“Playing with blocks or legos” It has been proven in practice that learning outcomes is better when it is done through blocks, cubes and lego games, in order to give children an understanding of shapes, colours and numbers in English. Playing with blocks, cubes and lego toys stimulates the child to think and develops his creative ability in doing something, as well as through these games the child has the opportunity to increase the vocabulary in English. Vocabulary in games is done by asking questions in English and conveying the basic concepts through instruction. The child learns to count and sort through this game: How many blocks are there? Shall we put the blue ones here? Learn the location of objects using prepositions: in, on, under, below, behind, next to. Gain an understanding of the units of measurement: big, small, long, short. Use the following words to instruct the child on what they are making: Find the red block, please!, Pull the blue one, please!, Push them!, Build the house, please! Make the car, please! Describes the objects and shapes the child is making: square, rectangle, tower, house, castle, garden

Through the type of educational activity "Dressing" children can be introduced to the fairy-tale heroes of the peoples of the world. When the characters of fairy tales are introduced to children, their clothes are dressed and role-playing is done in English, and with the help of this activity the child's English vocabulary increases and the child's imagination and worldview expands. Through this educational activity, children learn and apply words and phrases related to human body parts and clothing. The order also emphasizes the body parts put this: put your arms through here, tie this around your waist / wrist, put these on your feet, put your right foot, first your right foot, then your left foot, put this over your head.

Children also enliven fairy-tale characters in their imagination, enter the image, and learn to use key words and phrases. This of course also helps to develop speaking skills by listening and understanding words in English and composing sentences from memorized words. The available hero costumes are described (fairy, princess, pirate, king, clown and the phrases on dress are used: put on, zip up, do the buttons up, unbutton, unzip).

Animals and their sounds is an educational activity that introduces the world of animals and insects in English. Children also listen to various stories and tales involving animals. Learning about animals and their movements and sounds in English through pictures depicting colourful pictures of animals is also a fun activity for children.

Pets: dog, cat, duck, cock, hen, chicken, cow... Wild animals: wild animals: lion, tiger, wolf, rabbit, fox, snake, deer...

Learning children's names of animals and insects in English and imitating their actions with a tutor will give the child a lot of fun.

Handicrafts: a type of educational activity to make and decorate things. It is well known that a child is curious by nature, but not everyone knows that a child's development does not take place in the same way at the same time. Some children may have a different stage of development than their peers due to their social background, nature, and interests. Some children are quiet and cannot join many quickly, but because they are observant, their creativity is well developed. If such children are involved in the art of making things by hand, they will undoubtedly become real inventors of works of art.

When children are taught to make colourful things through manual labour, the child's creative abilities develop, and when this activity is conducted in English, the vocabulary of the English language increases and the skills of listening comprehension and speaking also develop. So, this type of educational activity can be making shapes from pieces of paper, colouring shapes using paints, or making different things from plasticine. Any process should not be free of English words and phrases.

If the educational game is carried out with the help of umbrellas, artificial clouds and artificial fire, the activity of children will increase and the effectiveness of the result will increase.

It is necessary to ensure the active participation of children in educational activities, to pay special attention to each child and to encourage the child to learn something in this lesson. Praising successful children for their work also increases their motivation. But psychologists say that praise should be focused on the work done, not on the person, because if praise is given to a person, it can lead the child to selfishness later. Praise for his work will ensure that any work will continue to be of quality and fast.

## CONCLUSIONS

How children go to school and grow up with high goals largely depends on the family environment, the attention of the community and the upbringing in the preschool. The scientific observations and research presented in the article show that the fact that a person receives 70% of all the information he receives during his life before the age of 6 shows the importance of the role of preschool education in the development of the child's personality. At a meeting held by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev on August 16, 2017, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted a resolution "On the organization of the Ministry of Preschool Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan" to determine measures for 100% coverage of children aged 5-6. The purpose of the state requirements is to bring up a spiritually perfect and intellectually developed person in the system of preschool education, taking into account the on-going socio-economic reforms in the country, the best practices of foreign countries and scientific achievements and modern information and communication technologies. This means that the knowledge that children acquire at an early age, as our ancestors said, is not in vain. From this point of view, teaching foreign languages to children at an early age will make it easier for them to master language skills and abilities. Especially when this knowledge, skills, abilities are absorbed through various games and educational activities, the child develops foreign languages as naturally as his native language. Educational games not only form knowledge, skills and abilities in the child, but also ensure the child's healthy physical development, mental refreshment, strengthen self-confidence and help to form social relationships with others.

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