



USING STEAM TOYS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LESSONS IN PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

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Abstract: This article explores the pedagogical importance of using STEAM-based toys in teaching English to preschool children. It highlights the developmental benefits of STEAM activities, their role in enhancing children's linguistic and cognitive skills, and provides practical examples of integrating STEAM materials into English lessons. The study concludes that STEAM-oriented learning creates an interactive, motivating, and experience-based environment for early foreign language acquisition.

Keywords: STEAM education, preschool learning, English language teaching, educational toys, sensory play, constructive play, robotics, competence development, linguistic skills, interactive learning.

Introduction: Preschool age is a critical period for natural and effective language learning. Creating an engaging, playful, and developmentally supportive environment is essential when teaching English to young children. In recent years, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) education has become increasingly popular in preschool institutions as an innovative approach that supports children's creativity, logical thinking, and hands-on learning.

Using STEAM toys in English lessons not only enhances children's linguistic comprehension but also activates their sensory, cognitive, and motor development. This article examines how STEAM materials can be integrated into

English classes and how they contribute to the holistic development of preschool learners.

The Importance of STEAM Toys in English Language Teaching

1. Multimodal learning in language acquisition

STEAM toys allow children to engage multiple senses—seeing, hearing, touching, moving, and thinking—at the same time. This multimodal exposure helps them remember English words and phrases more effectively.

2. Vocabulary enrichment through practical activity

Constructing, experimenting, and building with STEAM toys provides natural opportunities to introduce vocabulary such as:color, shape, size, build, move, light, sound, etc.

Children learn these words while performing actions, which strengthens long-term memorization.

3. Increased motivation and active participation

Preschool children enjoy playing, exploring, and experimenting. Integrating STEAM toys turns English lessons into engaging activities, encouraging children to participate more actively and confidently.

4. Development of logical and creative thinking

Lego sets, magnetic blocks, STEM robots, and other constructive toys foster problem-solving and creative thinking. When tasks are given in English, both cognitive and linguistic skills develop simultaneously.

Practical Examples of Using STEAM Toys in English Lessons

1. Teaching colors and shapes through LEGO

Teachers can assign the following tasks to children:

- “Find a yellow block.”
- “Build a tall tower.”
- “Make a circle.”

This helps children learn English vocabulary related to colors, shapes, and sizes through hands-on activities.

2. Teaching action verbs using robotics

Simple robots allow children to follow instructions such as:

- “Move forward.”
- “Turn left.”
- “Stop.”

This method effectively teaches action verbs through direct experience.

3. Teaching nature and environmental vocabulary through sensory toys

Light-up, sound-based, and texture-based sensory materials can be used to teach concepts like:

- “hot–cold,”
- “day–night,”
- “water–light,”

making learning more interactive and memorable.

Conclusion: Integrating STEAM toys into English language lessons in preschool education makes learning enjoyable, dynamic, and experience-based. STEAM activities support children’s communication, observation, problem-solving, creative thinking, and overall linguistic development. This innovative approach enhances the effectiveness of early English education by combining play, experimentation, and language practice in a natural and engaging environment.

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