

MAIN PRINCIPLES OF TEACHING LANGUAGE TO YOUNG CHILDREN

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Abstract: This article examines the scientific and pedagogical foundations of teaching language to young children. It analyzes the factors influencing speech development in preschool-aged children, the main principles of language teaching, and ways of applying them in practice. The article highlights the importance of considering children's age and individual characteristics, organizing instruction based on play activities, and using a communication-oriented approach. The research findings are of methodological value for preschool educators and teachers.

Keywords: preschool education, young children, speech development, principles of language teaching, communicative approach, play-based learning, pedagogical process

Main Principles of Teaching Language to Young Children

Introduction

The preschool period is one of the most important stages in a child's speech and cognitive development. During this time, children actively acquire language through interaction with their environment. Language serves as a crucial tool in the development of thinking, communication, emotional expression, and social adaptation. Therefore, teaching language to young children should be organized in a scientifically grounded, systematic, and goal-oriented manner. Characteristics of Speech Development in Young Children Speech development in young children is closely connected with their psychological and physiological growth. Children do not learn language through ready-made rules, but rather through listening, imitation, and communication. Initially, their speech consists of simple words and phrases; over time, vocabulary expands and

grammatical structures are formed. Thus, age appropriateness and gradual progression play an essential role in language teaching.

Main Principles of Language Teaching

1. Principle of Considering Age and Individual Characteristics

Each child has a different level of speech development. Therefore, educators should organize the teaching process by taking into account children's individual abilities, interests, and needs.

2. Principle of Play-Based Learning

Play is the leading activity in preschool age. Using didactic games, role-playing games, and movement-based activities in language teaching increases children's speech activity and makes the learning process engaging and effective.

3. Principle of Communication-Oriented Teaching

Language teaching should take place in a natural communication environment rather than an artificial one. Daily conversations, question-and-answer activities, and discussions with children have a positive impact on speech development.

4. Principle of Systematic and Sequential Instruction

The language teaching process should be planned and implemented step by step. A gradual transition from simple words to complex sentence structures ensures consistent speech development.

5. Principle of Visual Aids

The use of pictures, toys, objects, and multimedia tools is effective in enriching children's vocabulary. Visual aids enhance perception and help children learn new words more quickly.

Conclusion: Teaching language to young children is a complex yet highly important pedagogical process. To ensure its effectiveness, it is essential to rely on scientifically grounded principles. Play-based activities, a communication-oriented approach, and individualized instruction play a significant role in supporting children's speech development. A well-organized language teaching process lays a solid foundation for children's future educational success and social integration.

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