

METHODS USED IN PRESCHOOL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE

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Abstract: This article highlights the main pedagogical methods used in preschool educational institutions and their relevance in the modern education system. The impact of methods such as play, observation, conversation, practical activities, the Montessori method, and STEAM on children's development is scientifically substantiated. In addition, the suitability of these methods to age characteristics and their role in increasing educational effectiveness are analyzed.

Keywords: preschool education, pedagogical method, play method, Montessori, STEAM, innovative approach, development, educational effectiveness.

Introduction

The preschool education system, as the initial stage of continuous education, occupies an important place in the development of society. At this stage, the foundations of children's intellectual, socio-emotional, speech, and physical development are formed. Therefore, the pedagogical methods used in preschool educational institutions must be scientifically grounded, effective, and meet modern requirements.

Today, alongside traditional methods, innovative approaches are widely used in organizing the educational process. This requires a scientific analysis of the relevance of these methods.

Main Part

The Play Method and Its Relevance

Play is the leading type of activity for preschool children. Through play, a child understands the surrounding world, masters social roles, and develops communication skills. The relevance of the play method lies in the fact that it stimulates natural interest in children and allows education to be organized without coercion.

Didactic, role-playing, movement-based, and creative games develop children's thinking, imagination, and teamwork skills. Modern pedagogy recognizes play as the main tool of developmental education.

The effectiveness of the educational process in preschool institutions largely depends on the pedagogical methods used. A method is a way of achieving educational goals and should be selected considering children's age, psychological, and individual characteristics. During preschool age, perception, imagination, thinking, and speech processes actively develop. Therefore, methods should encourage activity, independent thinking, and curiosity.

The Developmental Importance of the Play Method

Psychologists and educators evaluate play as a natural need and a means of development for a child. During play, children explore their environment, master social roles, interact with peers, and learn to solve problematic situations.

Didactic games help form mathematical concepts, speech culture, and cognitive processes. Role-playing games contribute to socio-emotional development, while movement-based games enhance physical development, attention, and agility.

The relevance of the play method lies in its ability to teach naturally, without pressure. Modern pedagogical concepts support child-centered education, where play serves as the primary tool.

Observation Method and Individual Approach

The observation method is an integral part of the pedagogical process in preschool institutions. By observing children's daily activities, educators identify their interests, abilities, and developmental levels. This method plays a crucial role in ensuring an individual approach.

Based on observation results, educators adapt educational content, implement differentiated instruction, and monitor each child's developmental dynamics. With the growing emphasis on inclusive education, the relevance of the observation method has increased, as every child has a unique developmental trajectory.

Conversation and Question-and-Answer Methods

Developing speech is one of the main tasks in preschool education. The conversation method helps enrich children's vocabulary, form coherent speech, and develop logical thinking.

During question-and-answer activities, children think independently, analyze, and draw conclusions, which fosters elements of critical thinking. In the era of globalization, developing communicative competence has become highly important, further increasing the significance of the conversation method.

Practical Activities and Experimental Methods

Practical activities help actively organize children's cognitive processes. Through experiments, modeling, construction, drawing, and handicrafts, children consolidate theoretical knowledge in practice.

For example, simple experiments explaining natural phenomena help children understand cause-and-effect relationships. Working with construction sets develops basic engineering thinking. The relevance of these methods lies in transforming the child into an active subject of learning.

Montessori Method and STEAM Approach

The Maria Montessori method is aimed at developing children's independence and internal discipline. In this method, the child acts freely in a specially prepared environment, while the

educator serves as a guide. Its relevance lies in considering each child's individual pace of development.

The STEAM approach integrates science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics in education. It develops problem-solving abilities, creative thinking, and teamwork skills. In today's rapidly digitalizing society, the importance of STEAM methodology continues to grow.

Compliance of Methods with Modern Educational Requirements

Today, the education system is organized based on a competency-based approach. Methods should focus not only on providing knowledge but also on forming skills and competencies. Preschool methods must develop independence, creativity, social activity, and responsibility in children.

From this perspective, play, observation, conversation, practical, and innovative methods fully meet modern educational requirements.

Trends in the Development of Preschool Education Methods

In the context of globalization and digital transformation, the preschool education system is undergoing significant renewal. Modern pedagogy views children not as passive listeners but as active participants.

1. Transition to Child-Centered Education

The child's personality is placed at the center of the educational process. Each child's abilities, interests, and pace of development are considered. This is particularly important in inclusive education, where adapted methods are prioritized.

2. Strengthening of the Competency-Based Approach

Education is shifting from a knowledge-based model to a competency-based model. Through play and project-based methods, children develop problem-solving, teamwork, communication, and decision-making competencies.

3. Expansion of Innovative and Integrated Methods

STEAM, project-based learning, digital educational tools, and interactive platforms are rapidly entering preschool practice. Interdisciplinary integration develops systematic thinking in children. Since modern children represent the "digital generation," rational use of information and communication technologies has become essential.

4. Improvement of Play-Based Learning

Although traditional, the play method is being enriched with new content. Gamification elements—reward systems, level-based tasks, and interactive games—enhance educational effectiveness.

5. Increased Attention to Emotional-Intellectual Development

Greater emphasis is placed on emotional intelligence and cooperation between parents and educational institutions.

Contribution of Scholars to Methodology

Eastern thinkers made significant contributions to pedagogy. Abu Nasr al-Farabi emphasized the harmony of knowledge and upbringing and the importance of logical thinking in education. Abu Rayhan al-Biruni promoted experimental and observation-based scientific approaches. Avicenna highlighted age characteristics and the principle of teaching from simple to complex.

In Western pedagogy, Johann Amos Comenius substantiated the principles of systematicity and visual learning in *Great Didactics*. Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi emphasized love and individual approach in teaching. Adolf Diesterweg stressed the importance of developing independent thinking.

In the 20th century, Maria Montessori revolutionized preschool methodology. Lev Vygotsky scientifically grounded the relationship between learning and development through the “zone of proximal development” theory.

Uzbek pedagogical scholars have also contributed significantly by harmonizing national values with modern pedagogical technologies, especially in preschool and inclusive education.

Conclusion

Trends in the development of preschool education methods are shaped by child-centered, competency-based, innovative, and integrated approaches. Modern preschool methods ensure comprehensive child development, foster creative and critical thinking, and strengthen social adaptation.

Continuous improvement of methods and study of international experience remain priority tasks of the preschool education system. The scientific heritage of scholars continues to serve as a foundation for developing innovative methods and interactive approaches aimed at improving educational quality.

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