

FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF CREATIVE AND CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS IN FUTURE PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

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Annotation: This article discusses the formation and development of creative and critical thinking skills in future primary school teachers. The article focuses on the significance of creative thinking and key methods to foster it, as well as effective approaches to cultivating critical thinking. By acquiring these skills, teachers can enable students to think independently, solve problems, and generate new ideas. The article presents practical methods for combining creative and critical thinking to enhance the educational process with greater effectiveness and innovation.

Keywords:

Creative thinking, critical thinking, primary school teachers, teaching skills, education, innovative approaches, independent thinking, teaching methods, student learning, pedagogy.

The importance of modern education in fostering thinking skills

Today's education system aims not only to deliver knowledge but also to foster creative and critical thinking skills among students. These skills help learners think independently, solve problems, and create new ideas. At the same time, teachers themselves need to develop these competencies. The formation and development of creative and critical thinking skills in future primary school teachers contribute significantly to the effectiveness of the education system.

This article analyzes the processes involved in fostering these skills in future primary school teachers and explores how they can be effectively transferred to students.

The importance and formation of creative thinking

Creative thinking is the ability to generate new, original, and effective ideas. Creativity requires teachers to engage students, encourage them to think, and make learning interactive. This competency supports not only lesson delivery but also the creation of an engaging educational environment.

Key elements of creative thinking:

Element	Description
Free Thinking	Teachers encourage students to express their ideas freely and come up with new concepts.
Innovative Approaches	Applying new and effective methods during lessons, such as games, group work, and problem-solving activities.
Unconventional Solutions	Using advanced technologies and creative methods to make lessons more interactive.
Experimentation	Motivating students to try new approaches, accept mistakes, and learn from them.

Methods for developing creative thinking:

- **Creative tasks:** Teachers may assign alternative creative exercises (e.g., story writing, combining different ideas in a lesson).
- **Cooperative learning:** Group work and collaborative projects help foster creative

thinking as students jointly solve problems and generate new ideas.

- **Experiments and practical activities:** Hands-on tasks help students think differently and generate fresh perspectives.

Weekly plan for developing creative thinking:

Week	Activity	Goal
Week 1	Presentation and discussion	To spark student interest in creative thinking.
Week 2	Creative task: storytelling	To encourage students to generate original ideas.
Week 3	Group work: problem-solving	To develop creative thinking through collaboration.
Week 4	Experiments: testing innovations	To explore new and innovative solutions.

The importance and formation of critical thinking

Critical thinking is the ability to analyze, evaluate, and logically connect information. Teachers should teach students how to make informed decisions, analyze information, and develop arguments. Cultivating critical thinking is essential because it encourages students to think independently and consciously.

Methods for developing critical thinking:

- **Question-and-answer sessions:** Teachers pose questions to students, prompting discussion and deeper thinking.
- **Analysis exercises:** Students learn to analyze various sources, compare facts, and justify their opinions.
- **Problem-solving:** Teachers present practical issues and guide students toward resolving them logically.

Weekly plan for developing critical thinking:

Week	Activity	Goal
Week 1	Analyzing information	Teaching students to study and analyze facts.
Week 2	Questions and discussion	Encouraging students to answer and explore critical questions.
Week 3	Problem-solving: group work	Teaching students to analyze and solve problems collaboratively.
Week 4	Logical analysis: justifying arguments	Helping students back up their ideas with evidence.

Integrating creative and critical thinking

Creative and critical thinking are complementary skills. While creative thinking aids in generating new ideas, critical thinking helps analyze, evaluate, and validate those ideas.

Comparison table of creative and critical thinking:

Creative thinking	Critical thinking
Generating new ideas	Analyzing and evaluating ideas
Freedom and non-traditional approaches in thinking	Making fact-based decisions
Learning from mistakes	Logical analysis and argumentation
Creating new opportunities	Evaluating ideas reliably and with evidence

Weekly plan for integrating both skills:

Week	activity	Goal
Week 1	Discussion: combining creative and critical thinking	Teaching students how to create and analyze ideas together.
Week 2	Problem-solving: analyzing new solutions	Training students to critically evaluate creative ideas.

Week	activity	Goal
Week 3	Group work: critically analyzing creative ideas	Integrating both skills in collaborative activities.

Conclusion

Developing creative and critical thinking skills in future primary school teachers is a vital part of the educational process. These skills support not only the professional growth of teachers but also help students develop independent thinking and apply innovative approaches. Teachers who integrate creative and critical thinking into their teaching practices can better equip students with the skills they need for academic and real-life success.

References

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