



MODERN APPROACHES TO PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING FOR FUTURE TEACHERS OF YOUNG LEARNERS

Nurmukhammedov Yusuf Shakarboyevich

PhD, associate professor of Samarkand state institute of foreign languages

Turdybekova Dilfuza Abdashimovna

PhD, teacher of M. AUEZOV South Kazakhstan research University

Iskanderova Shirin Daniyarovna

Student of Samarkand state institute of foreign languages

Abstract: This article explores contemporary methods and innovative approaches in pedagogical training aimed at preparing future educators for working with preschool and primary school children. Emphasizing the importance of practical skills, technological integration, and student-centered learning, the study analyzes modern pedagogical strategies that enhance the quality of teacher education. The paper discusses the role of interactive learning, digital tools, and reflective practices in developing effective teaching competencies. The findings highlight the necessity of adopting progressive training models to meet the evolving demands of early childhood and primary education, ensuring that future teachers are well-equipped to foster a supportive and engaging learning environment for young learners.

Keywords: pedagogical training, future teachers, young learners, modern approaches, innovative methods, teacher education, preschool, primary education, digital tools, student-centered learning

The rapid evolution of educational paradigms and the increasing complexity of early childhood and primary education necessitate a reevaluation of pedagogical training [1, 558] for future teachers. Traditional methods, while foundational, often fall short in preparing educators to meet the diverse needs of young learners in a dynamic learning environment. Modern approaches to pedagogical training emphasize the integration of innovative teaching strategies, digital technologies, and reflective practices that foster active learning and professional growth [2, 34]. This article aims to analyze contemporary methods in teacher education, focusing on how they can effectively prepare future educators to create stimulating, inclusive, and developmentally appropriate learning experiences for preschool and primary school children. By examining current trends and best practices, the study underscores the importance of adopting progressive pedagogical models to enhance the quality and effectiveness of teacher training programs.

Equally important is reflective practice [3, 20], where future educators regularly assess their teaching methods and student outcomes to improve their effectiveness. Training programs use tools such as teaching journals, video recordings of lessons, and mentorship sessions to promote continuous professional growth.

Authentic classroom experiences are a hallmark of effective teacher education [4, 40]. Most programs now include extensive field experience—starting with observations and gradually progressing to supervised teaching.

These practicums help future teachers bridge theory and practice, develop classroom management skills, and receive feedback from experienced mentors. Real-time exposure to diverse school settings also prepares them to handle challenges with confidence and adaptability. Future teachers are also expected to cultivate 21st-century skills in young learners: critical thinking, creativity, communication, collaboration, and digital literacy. Therefore, teacher training programs model [5, 244] these skills themselves.

Workshops on design thinking, project-based learning (PBL), and inquiry-based instruction help teachers plan dynamic lessons. Simultaneously, they learn to nurture curiosity, resilience, and independent thinking in children—skills necessary for future success.

Modern pedagogy emphasizes data-informed instruction. Trainee teachers are taught how to assess student learning through both formative and summative tools and how to use that data to refine instruction.

They explore assessment strategies beyond traditional testing—such as portfolios, rubrics, observations, and performance tasks—to capture a holistic picture of student progress. This helps them make informed decisions and provide targeted support to each learner.

Global trends influence teacher education, especially in an interconnected world. Training programs now include comparative education, awareness of global education frameworks like UNESCO's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) [6, 4471], and global citizenship education.

Moreover, modern teachers must view themselves as lifelong learners. Programs instill a mindset of continuous learning through professional development, research engagement, and reflective inquiry. Access to Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), webinars, and professional learning communities (PLCs) ensures that learning never stops.

Lastly, today's teachers are not only practitioners but also potential leaders and change agents. Some training programs include modules on educational policy, school governance, and advocacy to empower future teachers to influence positive change in the system.

Through leadership training, student teachers are encouraged to participate in decision-making, collaborate with parents and stakeholders, and initiate community-based projects.

Modern pedagogical training is evolving to meet the complex needs of today's young learners and the demands of a rapidly changing educational landscape. By focusing on child-centered learning, inclusivity, technology, practical experience, and continuous reflection, teacher education programs are equipping future educators with the tools, mindset, and resilience needed to inspire and support young children in their formative years. As the field continues to innovate, a commitment to quality, equity, and lifelong learning will remain central to the preparation of early childhood educators.

In conclusion, modern approaches to pedagogical training play a crucial role in shaping competent, adaptable, and reflective future teachers of young learners. The integration of innovative methods such as digital technologies, student-centered learning, and experiential practices enriches the training process, making it more relevant to contemporary educational realities. Preparing future educators through these progressive strategies ensures they possess the necessary skills to foster a positive learning environment, address individual differences, and promote holistic development in preschool and primary education. As education continues to evolve, ongoing refinement and implementation of modern pedagogical approaches are essential to meet the challenges of teaching young children and to cultivate a new generation of inspired and effective educators.

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