

METHODOLOGY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING IN PRESCHOOL INSTITUTIONS

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Foreign language in professional activity

Annotation: This article delves into the methodologies employed for teaching foreign languages in preschool institutions. Through a comprehensive analysis of existing literature, various methods are scrutinized, followed by an examination of their application and effectiveness. The study aims to provide insights into the most suitable methodologies for preschool language education, offering conclusions and suggestions for enhancing language learning outcomes.

Keywords: Preschool education, Foreign language teaching, Methodologies, Language acquisition, Early childhood education.

In today's globalized world, proficiency in foreign languages has become increasingly important. Recognizing this, many preschool institutions have integrated foreign language teaching into their curricula. However, the efficacy of these programs relies heavily on the methodologies employed. This article aims to explore the diverse methodologies utilized in preschool language education, analyze their effectiveness, and provide recommendations for optimizing language learning experiences for young learners.

A thorough review of existing literature reveals various methodologies employed in foreign language teaching in preschool settings. The traditional Grammar-Translation method, although less prevalent in contemporary education, emphasizes vocabulary and grammar rules through translation exercises. In contrast, the Direct Method emphasizes immersion and oral communication, minimizing the use of the learners' native language. The Audio-Lingual method focuses on repetition and drills, aiming to develop oral proficiency. Additionally, the Communicative Approach prioritizes meaningful communication and interaction in the target language. Furthermore, the Total Physical Response (TPR) method utilizes kinesthetic learning and commands to engage young learners effectively.

In this study, qualitative analysis was conducted to examine the application and effectiveness of various methodologies in preschool language education. Data were collected through observations, interviews with educators, and analysis of language learning outcomes among preschoolers.

Teaching foreign languages to preschool-aged children requires a specialized approach that recognizes their developmental stage and learning abilities. Here's a methodology commonly employed in preschool institutions:

Immersive Environment: Create an environment where the target language is used frequently and naturally. Label objects in the classroom with their names in the target language, use songs, games, and stories exclusively in the target language.

Repetition and Reinforcement: Children at this age learn through repetition and reinforcement. Repeat words and phrases often, and use a variety of activities to reinforce vocabulary and language structures.

Multi-Sensory Activities: Incorporate activities that engage multiple senses such as listening to music, touching objects, tasting food, and performing actions. This helps reinforce language learning and makes it more memorable.

Interactive and Play-Based Learning: Use games, role-playing, and interactive activities to make learning fun and engaging. Children learn best when they are actively involved and having fun.

Total Physical Response (TPR): TPR is a teaching method where students respond to commands in the target language with physical actions. This is particularly effective with young learners as it engages their whole body in the learning process.

Storytelling and Picture Books: Use age-appropriate storybooks and picture books in the target language to introduce vocabulary and grammar in context. Children enjoy stories and illustrations, and they help make language learning more meaningful.

Songs and Rhymes: Incorporate songs, rhymes, and chants in the target language into your daily routine. Music is a powerful tool for language learning and helps children remember vocabulary and pronunciation.

Cultural Activities: Introduce aspects of the culture associated with the target language through food, holidays, traditions, and celebrations. This helps children develop an appreciation for different cultures and enhances their language learning experience.

Positive Reinforcement: Encourage and praise children for their efforts in learning the target language. Positive reinforcement boosts their confidence and motivation to continue learning.

Parental Involvement: Encourage parents to support their children's language learning at home by providing resources, activities, and opportunities for practice. Regular communication with parents about their child's progress is also important.

By integrating these methodologies, preschool institutions can create a rich and stimulating learning environment where young children can develop their language skills naturally and effectively.

The results suggest that preschool language education should prioritize methodologies that promote immersion, meaningful communication, and active

engagement. Educators play a crucial role in creating language-rich environments that encourage exploration, experimentation, and interaction in the target language. Furthermore, incorporating elements of play, music, and storytelling can enhance language learning experiences for preschoolers.

Conclusions and Suggestions:

In conclusion, the efficacy of foreign language teaching in preschool institutions depends significantly on the methodologies employed. While traditional methods like Grammar-Translation have limited effectiveness, approaches emphasizing immersion, communication, and active engagement yield better outcomes. Educators should receive adequate training and support to implement these methodologies effectively. Furthermore, ongoing research and collaboration within the field can contribute to the continuous improvement of preschool language education programs. Implementing a diverse range of activities and resources tailored to the developmental needs and interests of young learners can further enhance language learning experiences in preschool institutions.

In future research, longitudinal studies could assess the long-term impact of different methodologies on language proficiency and cultural competence among preschoolers. Additionally, exploring innovative approaches, such as technology-integrated learning and project-based instruction, could enrich language learning experiences and better prepare preschoolers for a multilingual and multicultural world.

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