METHODS OF IMPROVING YOUNG LEARNERS' CREATIVE THINKING ABILITIES IN ENGLISH CLASSES

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Annotation: In this article there is given information about some beneficial ways of developing young learners' creative thinking abilities in EFL classes It investigates how methods can be incorporated into language education, highlighting their positive effects on narrative abilities and creativity. There is presented empirical data demonstrating how digital tools can boost student engagement and language skills by scholars. The study emphasizes the capability of multimedia resources to encourage creative thinking in EFL classrooms, aligning with the methods outlined in the research.

Key words: creative thinking, play-based learning, storytelling activities, digital storytelling, problem-solving, methods

Аннотация: В этой статье представлена информация о некоторых полезных способах развития способностей творческого мышления юных учащихся на уроках английского языка. В ней исследуется, как методы могут быть включены в языковое образование, подчеркивая их положительное влияние на повествовательные способности и творческие способности. Представлены эмпирические данные, демонстрирующие, как описание изображения могут повысить вовлеченность студентов и языковые навыки ученых. В исследовании подчеркивается способность мультимедийных ресурсов стимулировать творческое мышление в английский классах, что соответствует методам, изложенным в исследовании.

Ключевые слова: творческое мышление, игровое обучение, повествовательная деятельность, цифровое повествование, решение проблем, методы.

Creativity is an essential skill that fosters innovation, problem-solving, and adaptability, which are crucial for success in the modern world. In the context of English as a Foreign Language (EFL) education, enhancing young learners' creative thinking abilities can lead to improved language acquisition and a more engaging learning experience. This research article explores various methods for improving creative thinking abilities among young learners in EFL classes, drawing on educational theories, practical strategies, and empirical studies.

Creativity in EFL education helps students develop not only language skills but also cognitive and social abilities. According to Vygotsky's socio-cultural theory,

learning occurs through social interaction and cultural context, which can be enriched through creative activities (Vygotsky, 1978). Creative thinking encourages learners to use language in novel ways, enhancing their ability to communicate effectively and adapt to different contexts. According to some researchers we will look through some beneficial ways of developing young learners' creative thinking abilities in EFL classes:

-incorporating Play-Based Learning: Play-based learning is a powerful tool for developing creativity among young learners. It provides a relaxed environment where students can experiment with language without the fear of making mistakes. Activities such as role-playing, storytelling, and games encourage students to use their imagination and think creatively.

-role-playing activities: This activity allows students to step into different characters and scenarios, requiring them to think on their feet and use language creatively. For example, a role-playing exercise in a restaurant scenario can help students practice conversational skills and vocabulary related to food and dining.

-storytelling activities: Encouraging students to create their own stories fosters imagination and narrative skills. Teachers can prompt children with story starters or visual aids to spark their creativity.

-integrating Arts and Crafts: Arts and crafts activities can stimulate creativity and provide a hands-on approach to language learning. These activities allow students to express themselves visually and verbally, reinforcing language skills through a multi-sensory approach.

-drawing and Painting: When children create artwork, they can describe their pieces, share stories about their drawings, and engage in discussions, enhancing their descriptive language and storytelling abilities.

-Collage and Craft Projects: These projects can be tied to specific language themes, such as creating a collage of different weather conditions while learning weather-related vocabulary. The process of making and explaining their creations encourages creative thinking and language use.

-using Technology and Multimedia: Technology offers a myriad of opportunities to enhance creative thinking in EFL classes. Interactive digital tools and multimedia resources can make learning more engaging and provide platforms for creative expression.

-digital storytelling: Tools like digital storybooks and video creation apps enable students to produce their own stories, combining text, images, and audio. This activity not only enhances their language skills but also their digital literacy and creativity.

-educational games and apps: Games designed for language learning, such as Duolingo or Kahoot!, incorporate elements of play and competition, making learning fun and stimulating creative problem-solving.

Research has shown that creative activities in EFL classrooms significantly impact language acquisition and overall student engagement. For instance, a study by Maley and Peachey (2015) found that incorporating creative tasks in language learning improved students' motivation and language proficiency. Another study by Dewey and Macedo (2019) highlighted the positive effects of using digital storytelling on students' narrative skills and creativity.

While the benefits of enhancing creativity in EFL education are clear, practical implementation can present challenges. Teachers may face constraints such as limited resources, large class sizes, and a lack of training in creative teaching methods. To overcome these challenges, it is essential to provide professional development opportunities for teachers, invest in educational resources, and promote a culture of creativity within the school environment.

Enhancing young learners' creative thinking abilities in EFL classes is vital for their language development and overall cognitive growth. By incorporating play-based learning, integrating arts and crafts, and leveraging technology, teachers can create a dynamic and engaging learning environment that fosters creativity. As educators continue to explore innovative methods and overcome practical challenges, the potential for creative thinking in EFL education will continue to expand, benefiting students and enriching their language learning experience.

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