INCORPORATING DIGITAL TOOLS TO PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS IN CHILDREN.

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Abstract: Critical thinking is an essential skill that is essential for success in every aspect of life. It helps individuals evaluate information, understand complex problems, and develop innovative solutions to problems. English classes provide an excellent opportunity for children to develop critical thinking skills because it requires them to analyze and interpret information, make judgments, and communicate effectively. With the advancement in digital technologies, there are more opportunities to incorporate digital tools to promote critical thinking skills. This article will explore how English classes can be used to develop critical thinking skills in children using digital technologies.

Key words: critical thinking, digital technologies, interactive whiteboards, self-reflection, cognitive abilities, collaborative writing tools, online quizzes.
Inrtoduction.

Critical thinking skills are essential for individuals to make informed decisions, solve problems, and innovate. It is a cognitive skill that involves analyzing information, evaluating evidence, and making logical judgments. Children who develop critical thinking skills have better problem-solving abilities, are more creative, and can communicate their ideas effectively. It is a lifelong skill that is necessary for academic, personal, and professional success. Critical thinking (Sohana Abdul Hamid, 2021) not only describes the ability to think in accordance with the rules of logic and probability, but also the ability to apply these skills to real-life problems, which are not content-independent.

Developing Critical Thinking in Children during English Classes

English classes provide an excellent opportunity for children to develop critical thinking skills. English classes require students to analyze and interpret information, evaluate evidence, and communicate effectively. It is essential to incorporate critical thinking skills into English classes to help children develop their cognitive abilities. Teachers are using a wide range of methods in their primary class to support critically thought, particularly for language classes, because languages enable them to understand all sorts of additional subjects requiring an intelligent thinking attitude. One technique is to provide students with tools for thinking critically, in the form of

questions that they should ask when facing a challenge like What would you have thought about it? "Is this fair?" or "What am I supposed to do"? For students who want to see or use these and other questions in the course of a lesson, they can display them throughout the classroom until they start using them automatically.

Digital technologies can be used to enhance critical thinking skills during English classes.

Incorporating Digital Technologies to Develop Critical Thinking Skills

Critical thinking is regarded as a tool that enables people to take ownership of their learning, thinking, and other aspects of their lives and to be fulfilled in those. The practice of essential 21st-century skills like acquiring and using cutting-edge technology, using technology appropriately, being creative, and analyzing, managing, storing, and transferring information all depend heavily on this ability (Sigmund Topor, 2017).

Akylbek Meirbekov at.all (2022) states that the growth of information and communication technology has produced truly revolutionary changes, new perceptions of the global digital world, and new educational techniques based on creative thinking, critical analysis, effective communication, and beneficial teamwork. The use of digital tools aids in the growth of students' capacity for collaboration, self-control, self-reflection, and realistic goal-setting. As a result, there is a need to create efficient online curricula or programs that encourage critical thinking as a fundamental skill for higher education. It is necessary to either redesign subject curricula or design extracurricular settings where critical thinking can be consciously promoted.

Digital technologies can be used to develop critical thinking skills during English classes. Digital technologies provide an interactive learning experience that engages students and promotes critical thinking skills. Some of the digital technologies that can be used to develop critical thinking skills during English classes are discussed below.

Interactive whiteboards

Interactive whiteboards are an excellent tool for developing critical thinking skills in children. Interactive whiteboards provide a visual and interactive learning experience that engages students and promotes critical thinking skills. Teachers can use interactive whiteboards to display text, images, and videos, and students can interact with the content by drawing, highlighting, and annotating. Interactive whiteboards also provide a collaborative learning experience that promotes teamwork and communication skills.

Online quizzes

Online quizzes are an excellent tool for developing critical thinking skills in children. Online quizzes provide a fun and interactive learning experience that engages students and promotes critical thinking skills. Teachers can use online quizzes to test students' knowledge and understanding of the subject matter, and students can use

online quizzes to practice their critical thinking skills. Online quizzes also provide immediate feedback, which helps students learn from their mistakes and improve their critical thinking skills. The immediate feedback encourages the students to reflect on their understanding, to implement whatever methods are needed to gain more understanding, and to make another attempt to ascertain whether they have actually improved their knowledge. The last stage included the investigation of student attitudes towards the online quizzes. Another possible benefit of the use of quiz when solving problems is that, it encourages the students to focus on problem-solving strategies rather than finding a final numeric answer (Donita Cohen, Irit Sasson, 2016).

Collaborative writing tools

Collaborative writing tools are an excellent tool for developing critical thinking skills in children. Collaborative writing tools provide a collaborative learning experience that promotes teamwork and communication skills. Teachers can use collaborative writing tools to assign group projects, and students can use collaborative writing tools to work together on a project. Collaborative writing tools also provide a platform for students to receive feedback from their peers, which helps them improve their critical thinking skills.

A group of learners can use collaborative tools as a knowledge platform so that its members can post information, share knowledge, collaborate, and have critical discussions about problems. The use of collaborative tools is characterized by some of the components essential to a group of learners, such as an online presence, a range of interactions, communication, participation, relevant content, and connections to a larger field of interest in the subject. Collaborative learning supported by computers can be facilitated by collaborative tools, i. e. the evolution of technology-enhanced collaboration for learning purposes. Collaborative tools can also improve group work and peer interaction, as well as make it easier for a group of learners to share knowledge and information. Finally, encouraging students to reflect on their knowledge is a crucial component of collaborative learning. By enabling collaborative reflection, collaborative tools help us move toward a fully social constructivist mode of learning (Cornelia Brodahl and Nils Kristian Hansen, 2014).

Virtual field trips

Virtual field trips are an excellent tool for developing critical thinking skills in children. Virtual field trips provide a visual and interactive learning experience that engages students and promotes critical thinking skills. Teachers can use virtual field trips to take students on a virtual tour of a place or location, and students can interact with the content by exploring and analyzing the information. Virtual field trips also provide a safe and cost-effective way to expose students to new experiences and ideas. Benefits of Using Digital Technologies to Develop Critical Thinking Skills

Using digital technologies to develop critical thinking skills in children has many benefits. Some of the benefits are discussed below.

Engages students

Digital technologies provide an interactive learning experience that engages students and promotes critical thinking skills. Students are more likely to participate in the learning process when digital technologies are used, and they are more likely to retain the information.

Conclusion

One of the most valuable skills that each student has to learn is critical thinking. In fact, this isn't limited to problem solving skills at class level but also in everyday life situations. A broad range of skills are learned in the course of developing critical thinking, this involves all sorts of circumstances that require planning, analysis and reflection.

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