

TEACHING ENGLISH TO YOUNG CHILDREN MORE EFFECTIVELY

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ABSTRACT:

This article highlights the theoretical and practical aspects of teaching English to young children more effectively. It analyzes the psychological characteristics and motivation of children in the process of learning English, the advantages of play-based education, the use of visual and multisensory tools, the principle of scaffolding, and the importance of a communicative approach. Based on international experience and scientific sources, methodological recommendations are developed for the effective teaching of English to the younger generation.

Today, English plays a special role as a global means of communication. In Uzbekistan's education system, teaching foreign languages from an early age has become an important part of state policy. Scientific research shows that learning a foreign language at an early age develops children's phonetic sensitivity, helps them acquire natural pronunciation, and creates a strong foundation for achieving a high level of language competence later in life [1]. Young children have specific psychological and physiological characteristics when acquiring a language. Although their attention span is short, their auditory and visual memory is strong. Therefore, organizing English lessons in short, engaging, activity- and play-based formats is considered effective. Since children are naturally inclined to learn through play, game-based methods become a natural and efficient tool for them. For example, interactive games like *Simon Says* help strengthen vocabulary, while songs play an important role in developing intonation and pronunciation [2]. Research shows that language units taught through games remain firmly stored in long-term memory and are actively used in speech activities [3].

In addition, visual and multisensory approaches play a significant role in language learning. Children acquire new words and expressions not only by hearing them but also through seeing, touching, and physical movement. For this reason, the use of flashcards, pictures, multimedia tools, real objects (realia), and the Total Physical Response (TPR) method is widespread [4]. In the TPR method, the teacher combines actions with words to ensure children's active participation in the lesson. As a result, the process of language acquisition becomes not only theoretical but also practical.

Scaffolding—the principle of providing gradual support—also plays an important role in effectively teaching English to young children. This approach is based on Vygotsky's theory of the “zone of proximal development.” At first, the teacher provides extensive assistance: demonstrating new words, explaining pronunciation, and completing exercises together. Over time, the level of assistance is reduced, and the child begins to engage in speech activities independently \[5]. This process increases the child's confidence and enables conscious language acquisition. The communicative approach is also considered one of the most effective methods for young learners. Since the primary function of language is communication, simple dialogues, question-and-answer activities, group work, and role-playing are widely used during lessons. Grammar is not taught as separate rules but is acquired naturally through conversation. This method increases children's motivation to learn the language and helps them perceive it not as theoretical knowledge but as a practical means of everyday interaction \[6]. Of course, there are certain challenges in teaching English to young children. These include a lack of resources, insufficient methodological preparation of teachers, and large class sizes, which can limit individual instruction. However, international experience shows that a creative teacher can organize engaging lessons by making effective use of available resources. In this process, the teacher's pedagogical skills, ability to use modern technologies, and understanding of children's needs play a crucial role [7].

Therefore, the effective teaching of English to young children should be based on play-based learning, visual and multisensory tools, the principle of scaffolding, and the communicative approach. These methods help children acquire the language naturally and actively. The effectiveness of language learning is closely linked to the child's personal interest, parental support, and the teacher's professional competence. High-quality education started at an early age lays the foundation for the younger generation to become competitive in the international arena in the future.

In conclusion, the process of teaching English to young children effectively serves as a foundation for their personal development and future success at the initial stage of education. Research shows that learning a language at an early age strengthens children's phonetic sensitivity, memory, and communication skills. Therefore, the use of interactive methods, game-based technologies, and multimedia tools in lessons not only captures students' interest but also ensures their active participation. In this process, the teacher achieves effectiveness by selecting the right methodological approach, taking into account children's psychological characteristics, and supporting their individual development opportunities. Furthermore, the application of modern principles of language didactics, state educational standards, and international experience plays an important role in ensuring that the younger generation masters English thoroughly.

Thus, combining creative, interactive, and communicative methods, enhancing teacher qualifications, and making effective use of modern resources can lead to high results in teaching English to young children. In this way, improving the quality of education creates the necessary conditions for young people to enter the global information space and become competitive specialists in the future.

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