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## USING EFFECTIVE METHODS OF TEACHING ENGLISH TO CHILDREN FROM AN EARLY AGE

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*This article analyzes the psychological, pedagogical, and methodological foundations of teaching English to children from an early age. Effective approaches adapted to preschool and primary school learners—including game-based learning, multimodal instruction, the TPR method, audio-visual materials, phonetic-oriented teaching, and integrative approaches—are examined in depth. The findings show that the proper integration of these methods fosters positive motivation, strengthens linguistic competence, and supports early language acquisition in children*

### Introduction

In the 21st century, English has become the primary language of global communication, science, technology, and business. Therefore, developing foreign language skills from early childhood is one of the essential goals of modern educational policy. Psycholinguistic research (J. Piaget, L. Vygotsky, E. Lenneberg) demonstrates that the age between 2 and 7 is the most favorable “critical period” for language acquisition, as children possess strong phonemic awareness, imitation ability, curiosity, and active memory processes.

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In Uzbekistan, early foreign language education has become a national priority. The Presidential Decree adopted on December 10, 2012, emphasized the importance of teaching English from the primary grades, which, in turn, increased the demand for innovative methods suitable for preschool-aged learners.

Psychological Characteristics of Early Language Acquisition Early language learning is closely related to the child's developmental features, including:

1. Natural imitation skills — the ability to repeat sounds, intonation, and words quickly.
2. Concrete perception — learning more effectively through real objects, actions, and colorful visuals.
3. Emotional engagement — high interest stimulated by games, songs, and pictures.
4. Strong memory — rapid memorization of short and repetitive materials.

Thus, traditional grammar-translation approaches are ineffective for young learners; they learn best through visual, auditory, and kinesthetic channels.

Effective Methods of Teaching English to Young Children

1. Game-based learning.

Games create a stress-free environment, help use language in natural contexts, and increase memory retention.

Examples: Simon Says, Memory Cards, Colour Hunt, Flashcard Race.

2. Total Physical Response (TPR).

Developed by James Asher, this method teaches through actions.

Commands such as stand up, clap, jump, open your book enhance comprehension, active response, and retention.

3. Audio-visual materials.

Multimedia increases perception efficiency: animations, songs, picture cards, and children's videos support phonetic and vocabulary development. A brief example from Luqmon Bo'rixon's short story 'Tun qa'ridagi Shula' illustrates the significance of experiential learning. The character, a teacher of botany and biology, admits that despite teaching these subjects, he had never observed real plants closely. His decision to spend the summer in the mountains collecting natural specimens emphasizes the importance of practical, hands-on experience. Similarly, language learning becomes more meaningful when children physically engage with learning materials.

4. Communicative approach.

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This method encourages real-life communication through dialogues, role-plays, and simple speech tasks such as “What’s your name?” or “How old are you?”

5. Phonetic-oriented teaching.

Since children hear sounds accurately, phonetic practice—minimal pairs, articulation exercises, chants—strengthens pronunciation skills.

6. Multimodal instruction.

Integrating visual, auditory, and kinesthetic methods—image → word → action, audio → repetition → game—activates all cognitive processes and builds strong language competence.

Challenges and Solutions

Common challenges in early English education include short attention spans, teachers’ insufficient pronunciation skills, lack of resources, and limited parental support. Solutions include short but intensive lessons (5–12 minutes), professional teacher training, creating more game-based resources, and conducting parental workshops.

Conclusion

Teaching English from an early age plays a crucial role in developing cognitive, auditory, and pronunciation abilities.

Game-based methods, TPR, audio-visual tools, and multimodal strategies help foster a positive attitude and strong communication skills in children. Proper methodology, pedagogical competence, and a supportive environment lay the foundation for successful future language mastery.

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