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## Methods of Teaching English to Preschool Children Uralova Dilfuza Saydaliyevna

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**Abstract.** Teaching English to preschool children has become increasingly important in the context of globalization and early childhood education. At the preschool stage, children acquire language naturally through play, interaction, and sensory experiences. This article discusses effective methods of teaching English to preschool learners, focusing on age-specific characteristics, communicative approaches, play-based learning, and the role of visual and auditory materials. The study highlights the importance of creating a positive emotional environment and using interactive techniques to enhance language acquisition.

**Keywords:** preschool education, early language learning, teaching methods, communicative approach, play-based learning, English as a foreign language.

**Introduction.** Early childhood is considered a critical period for language acquisition. Preschool children (ages 3–6) possess strong imitation skills, natural curiosity, and high memory capacity. At this stage, language learning should be informal, engaging, and developmentally appropriate.

Teaching English to preschoolers differs significantly from teaching older learners. Young children do not yet have fully developed literacy skills, so instruction must focus primarily on listening and speaking. Therefore, teachers should apply interactive, visual, and play-based methods.

Psychological Characteristics of Preschool Learners

Understanding the developmental features of preschool children is essential for effective teaching:

Short attention span

Learning through play and movement

Strong imitation ability

Emotional sensitivity

Preference for visual and auditory stimuli

Because of these characteristics, lessons must be dynamic, varied, and emotionally supportive.

Effective Methods of Teaching English to Preschool Children

1. Play-Based Learning

Play is the leading activity of preschool children. Games create a natural context for language learning.

Examples:

Vocabulary games (flashcard matching)

Action games (Simon Says)

Role-play activities (shop, family, school)

Through play, children learn new words and expressions without pressure.

2. Total Physical Response (TPR)

Total Physical Response is one of the most effective methods for young learners. It connects language with physical movement.

Examples:

“Stand up”

“Clap your hands”

“Touch your nose”

This method improves comprehension and memory because children associate words with actions.

### 3. Songs and Chants

Music helps children memorize pronunciation, rhythm, and intonation naturally.

Examples:

Alphabet song

Counting songs

Action songs (“Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes”)

Songs reduce anxiety and make learning enjoyable.

### 4. Storytelling

Short, simple stories with pictures develop listening skills and imagination.

Teachers may:

Use big books with illustrations

Show puppets

Ask simple comprehension questions

Storytelling enriches vocabulary and introduces sentence patterns.

### 5. Visual and Multimedia Tools

Preschool children respond strongly to visual materials:

Flashcards

Picture books

Videos

Interactive whiteboards

Visual aids help children understand meaning without translation.

### 6. Communicative Approach

Even at an early age, children should use language for communication rather than memorization.

Activities include:

Greeting routines

Asking and answering simple questions

Pair work with simple dialogues

The goal is meaningful interaction, not grammar explanation.

### The Role of the Teacher

The teacher plays a crucial role in:

Creating a warm and supportive atmosphere

Using clear and simple language

Encouraging participation

Praising children regularly

Positive reinforcement increases motivation and confidence.

Challenges in Teaching Preschool Children

Some common difficulties include:

Limited concentration

Different language levels

Classroom management issues

To overcome these challenges, teachers should vary activities every 5–10 minutes and maintain a predictable lesson structure.

Conclusion

Teaching English to preschool children requires age-appropriate, interactive, and play-centered methods. Effective techniques such as Total Physical Response, songs, storytelling, and visual aids support natural language acquisition. A positive emotional environment and active participation are essential for successful early language learning.

Early exposure to English not only develops communication skills but also enhances cognitive and social development. Therefore, preschool English education should focus on enjoyment, interaction, and gradual language immersion.

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