



THE USE OF CREATIVE GAMES IN DEVELOPING SOCIAL SKILLS IN PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

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Abstract

This article highlights the importance of creative games in the development of social skills in preschool children and the mechanisms of their effective use. The research analyzes how children's social activity, communication skills, and teamwork abilities are formed through play activities. The effectiveness of using creative games in pedagogical practice is discussed, and their impact on children's development is widely examined.

Keywords: preschool education, creative games, social skills, child development, pedagogy, interactive methods.

Introduction

The early years of a preschool child's life serve as the foundation for their future development. During this period, children's cognitive, social, and emotional abilities are formed. Social skills refer to a person's ability to interact, communicate, and collaborate with others in society. These skills are acquired by children through various games, particularly creative games.

A child's development is determined by their social status and independent activities. During this stage, personality traits are formed, including the inclination to imitate adults, engage in relationships, show care, kindness, curiosity, and self-discipline. This, in turn, leads to the systematic development of a child's attitude towards their environment, peers, others, and themselves, contributing to their overall personality formation. A child's attitude towards social situations manifests holistically, with their behavior being influenced by various positive and negative circumstances. The structure of a child's personality and activities, their achievements, actions, and attitudes toward themselves and others, become more integrated over time.

Social skills include:

1. **Communication skills** – The ability to clearly express thoughts and engage in meaningful conversations with others.
2. **Cooperation** – The ability to work in a group and collaborate towards a common goal.
3. **Empathy and emotional perception** – Understanding others' emotions and responding accordingly.
4. **Problem-solving** – Finding appropriate solutions to life situations and making independent decisions.

Creative games help expand children's imagination, encourage innovative problem-solving, and develop independent thinking. These games include dramatic, role-playing, constructive, and board games. For example, role-playing games (doctor, teacher, shopkeeper games) allow children to experiment with different roles, enhancing their social adaptation.

Research shows that social skills are effectively developed through creative games. This article focuses on the role and importance of creative games in developing social skills in preschool children using the IMRAD format.

Methodology

This study used both empirical and theoretical methods. The research process was conducted in the following stages:

1. **Theoretical analysis** – Review of pedagogical and psychological literature, studies on social skills and creative games, and best practices in preschool education to establish a theoretical basis.
2. **Experimental research** – The study was conducted in preschool institutions in Tashkent. Participants included 4-6-year-old children, their educators, and parents.
3. **Observation** – Children's actions during play, their communication with peers, and their ability to collaborate were observed and analyzed.
4. **Experimentation** – The experimental group engaged in creative games, and their impact on social skills was assessed. The control group was taught using traditional methods.
5. **Questionnaire and interview** – Surveys and interviews with educators, parents, and children were conducted to collect opinions on the effectiveness of creative games.
6. **Data processing and analysis** – The experimental results were statistically analyzed and presented in graphical and tabular forms.

These methods provided a comprehensive understanding of the process of developing social skills in children and the significance of creative games in education.

Results

The main aspects of social interactions in preschool children are determined by the goal-oriented nature of their activities, which develop through their behavior and levels of engagement. As children's behavior and peer interactions become more complex, they begin to acquire volitional qualities, stabilize their character traits, and develop an inclination toward independence. A child's worldview plays a significant role in their ability to engage in social relationships. Developing social skills in preschool children is essential for ensuring their social and emotional development and for properly structuring their place and relationships in society. These skills are cultivated not only within the family but also through preschool education institutions, which play a crucial role in this process.

Conclusion

The findings of this study confirm that creative games are an effective tool for developing social skills in preschool children. Through games, children gain opportunities to communicate, collaborate, solve problems, and experiment with social roles. During creative play, children experience various social situations and develop the skills necessary to adapt to them. The research results show that regular engagement in creative games positively impacts children's personal and social development. Games help children understand their emotions, interact with others, and work in teams. Therefore, the widespread use of creative games in preschool education is recommended. Educators and parents should actively engage with children to support their social development. The findings of this study provide a valuable scientific basis for further improving preschool education systems and enhancing the process of social adaptation in children



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