



THE IMPORTANCE OF USING PLAY-BASED METHODS IN TEACHING ENGLISH IN PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

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Abstract: *This article highlights the significance of incorporating play-based methods into English language teaching in preschool education. It explores how games, role-play, songs, and interactive activities not only make learning enjoyable for children but also enhance language acquisition, social interaction, and cognitive development. The article presents a comparative analysis of traditional and play-based approaches, emphasizing the effectiveness of playful learning environments.*

Keywords: *play-based learning, preschool education, English teaching, language acquisition, interactive methods, early childhood development.*

Introduction:

Preschool education plays a crucial role in a child's overall development, particularly in language acquisition. Teaching English through play-based methods aligns with children's natural learning styles and provides a stress-free environment that fosters curiosity, creativity, and communication. This paper discusses the importance of these methods in shaping young learners' early linguistic and cognitive foundations.

Main Part:

Play-based learning involves a variety of activities such as storytelling, singing, drawing, role-playing, and games, purposefully designed to introduce and reinforce English vocabulary and phrases. Children absorb language more effectively when they are emotionally engaged and having fun. Unlike traditional rote-learning methods,



play-based approaches provide contextual learning and real-life simulations, making it easier for children to understand and remember new vocabulary. For instance, using toys to represent animals or fruits in English creates tangible associations that aid memory retention. Moreover, play-based environments promote peer interaction, allowing children to learn from one another, practice speaking, and enhance listening skills. In this setting, teachers act as facilitators, guiding and supporting the learning process rather than merely instructing, which fosters learner autonomy from an early age.

Conclusion:

Incorporating play into English teaching for preschoolers is not only effective but essential. It offers a natural, engaging, and holistic approach to language learning, supporting emotional, social, and intellectual development. Educators and policymakers should prioritize the integration of play-based strategies in early childhood English education programs to ensure optimal learning outcomes.

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