

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING METHOD IN PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

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Annotation: This article examines the most effective methods for teaching English to preschool children. It highlights how early language exposure fosters long-term proficiency and discusses pedagogical strategies including play-based learning, Total Physical Response (TPR), storytelling, and the use of songs and rhymes. The article also emphasizes the importance of a rich, immersive environment and age-appropriate materials to encourage natural language acquisition among young learners.

Keywords: Preschool education, English language learning, Total Physical Response (TPR), storytelling, play-based learning, early childhood

Introduction

Early childhood is an ideal period for language learning due to children's brain plasticity, natural curiosity, and eagerness to communicate. Introducing English during preschool years helps children develop accurate pronunciation, vocabulary, and confidence in communication. However, teaching English to this age group requires methods that are playful, interactive, and developmentally appropriate.

The Importance of Learning English in Preschool

Language Acquisition Window: Children aged 3–6 can acquire new sounds and patterns more naturally than older learners.

Cognitive Development: Learning a second language boosts memory, concentration, and problem-solving skills.

Global Competence: Early English instruction prepares children for future academic and global opportunities.

Effective Methods for Teaching English in Preschool

Play-Based Learning

Children learn best through play. English can be taught using:

Role-play (e.g., playing “shop” or “family”)

Language games (e.g., “Simon Says”)

Puppet shows and dramatic play

Total Physical Response (TPR)

Developed by James Asher, TPR connects language with movement.

Example: The teacher says “Jump,” and children jump.

Benefits: Reduces anxiety, builds listening comprehension, and increases engagement.

Songs and Rhymes

Repetition and rhythm help children memorize phrases and vocabulary.

Songs like “If You’re Happy and You Know It” introduce verbs and emotions.

Nursery rhymes also improve pronunciation and intonation.

Storytelling and Picture Books

Stories introduce vocabulary in context and help develop listening and sequencing skills.

Books with repetition (e.g., Brown Bear, Brown Bear) encourage participation.

Activities include retelling, acting out scenes, or drawing story events.

Visual Aids and Realia

Flashcards, toys, and real objects support word recognition.

Using real food to teach fruit names or a toy bus to practice transport vocabulary makes learning tangible.

Routine Language

Using English for daily routines (e.g., “Wash your hands,” “Line up”) helps children internalize everyday phrases.

Classroom Environment

Creating an English-rich environment is essential. Ideas include:

English corners with books, posters, and labels

Listening stations with headphones and English audio

Walls decorated with thematic vocabulary visuals

Assessment in Preschool English Education

Formal testing is not appropriate. Instead, assessment should be:

Observational: Watching how children respond to commands or participate in songs.

Portfolio-based: Collecting drawings, crafts, or recordings of children speaking.

Interactive: Asking simple questions and encouraging children to answer without pressure.

Conclusion

Teaching English in preschool education requires a unique combination of playfulness, structure, and pedagogical sensitivity. Young children acquire language best in environments that are interactive, meaningful, and emotionally supportive. Methods such as Total Physical Response (TPR), songs and rhymes, storytelling, and play-based learning have proven to be highly effective in fostering early English language development. Creating an immersive and visually rich classroom environment, establishing English routines, and using age-appropriate materials can help children build vocabulary and communication skills naturally. Rather than

focusing on grammar and accuracy, the goal at this stage is to promote listening, comprehension, and basic expression through joyful, hands-on experiences.

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