

## SPECIAL METHODOLOGY IN TEACHING PHONETICS TO YOUNG LEARNERS

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**Abstract:** Teaching phonetics to young learners requires unique and effective methodologies tailored to their cognitive development and learning styles. This course paper explores practical and creative approaches for teaching English phonetics to children aged 6 to 12. It highlights the importance of early phonetic instruction, introduces interactive tools such as songs, chants, games, and visual materials, and emphasizes the role of fun and repetition. The purpose of the paper is to equip teachers with strategies that enhance pronunciation, listening, and speaking skills in young learners, while fostering motivation and language confidence.

**Keywords:** Phonetics, young learners, teaching methodology, pronunciation, language acquisition, classroom activities, auditory skills.

**Annotatsiya:** Fonetikani yosh o‘quvchilarga o‘rgatish ularning kognitiv rivojlanishi va o‘quv uslublariga mos noyob va samarali metodlarni talab qiladi. Ushbu kurs ishi 6 yoshdan 12 yoshgacha bo‘lgan bolalarga ingliz tilining fonetikasi bo‘yicha dars o‘tishda amaliy va ijodiy yondashuvlarni o‘rganadi. Unda fonetikani erta bosqichda o‘rgatishning ahamiyati ta’kidlanadi, qo‘shiq, she’r, o‘yinlar va ko‘rgazmali materiallar kabi interaktiv vositalar namoyish etiladi hamda o‘yin orqali o‘rganish va takrorlashning roli alohida qayd etiladi. Ishning maqsadi — o‘qituvchilarga bolalarda talaffuz, tinglab tushunish va og‘zaki nutq ko‘nikmalarini rivojlantiruvchi metodlarni taklif qilish, shuningdek, ularning tilga bo‘lgan ishonchi va motivatsiyasini oshirishdir.

**Kalit so‘zlar:** Fonetika, yosh o‘quvchilar, o‘qitish metodikasi, talaffuz, til o‘zlashtirish, sinf mashg‘ulotlari, eshitish qobiliyat

**Аннотация:** Обучение фонетике детей младшего возраста требует уникальных и эффективных методик, адаптированных к их когнитивному развитию и стилям обучения. Данная курсовая работа рассматривает практические и креативные подходы к преподаванию английской фонетики детям в возрасте от 6 до 12 лет. В работе подчеркивается важность раннего фонетического обучения, рассматриваются интерактивные средства, такие как песни, речёвки, игры и наглядные материалы, а также акцентируется внимание на значении игры и повторения. Цель работы — вооружить преподавателей стратегиями, которые

способствуют улучшению произношения, навыков аудирования и устной речи у детей, одновременно развивая мотивацию и уверенность в использовании языка.

**Ключевые слова:** Фонетика, младшие школьники, методика преподавания, произношение, усвоение языка, классные занятия, слуховые навыки.

## Introduction

Phonetics plays a critical role in the development of language skills. For young learners, the ability to hear and produce sounds accurately is the foundation for clear communication. Early exposure to phonetic principles enables learners to avoid fossilized pronunciation errors and become confident English speakers

. Children between the ages of 6 and 12 are especially receptive to language input. Their auditory systems are flexible, and they can mimic sounds better than older learners. Therefore, phonetics should be integrated into early education using playful, child-friendly techniques.

### 1. Importance of Teaching Phonetics Early

Young learners absorb language naturally through listening and repetition. Phonetic instruction enhances:

- Auditory discrimination: the ability to hear sound differences (e.g., /p/ vs /b/)
- Pronunciation accuracy: children learn correct articulation before bad habits form
- Confidence in speaking: students are more likely to speak when they understand sounds

Early training improves communication and reduces misunderstandings in real-life conversations.

### 2. Challenges in Phonetics Instruction

While children are receptive learners, teaching them phonetics poses certain challenges:

- Short attention spans require engaging activities.
- Limited reading skills mean phonetic symbols should be introduced visually and through sounds.
- Interference from the first language may affect sound perception and production.

Teachers must adapt their techniques to suit the learners' language level and interest.

### 3. Effective Methodologies and Activities

The following strategies have proven successful in teaching phonetics:

- Total Physical Response (TPR): Using gestures to associate sounds with movement.
- Songs and rhymes: Musical rhythm supports memory and articulation.
- Phonics games: Flashcards, matching activities, and sound bingo make learning fun
- Minimal pairs: Training with word pairs like “cat/cut” helps distinguish sounds.
- Storytelling with sounds: Children imitate words and sounds in context.

Engagement and repetition are essential for long-term retention.

#### 4. The Role of Technology

Technology offers tools that make phonetics fun and effective:

- Pronunciation apps like “Sounds: The Pronunciation App” or “Starfall”
- Interactive websites such as BBC Phonics or YouTube phonics channels.
- Recording tools that let children hear and correct themselves

Digital resources encourage self-study and increase interest in learning

#### 5. The Teacher’s Role in Phonetics Lessons

Teachers must:

- Model correct pronunciation consistently
- Create a safe environment where mistakes are part of learning
- Offer praise and constructive feedback
- Use props, gestures, and visuals to support auditory learning

A passionate and creative teacher can inspire lifelong language skills in students.

Conclusion. Teaching phonetics to young learners requires patience, creativity, and well-designed strategies. When approached with enthusiasm and tailored methodologies, phonetic lessons become enjoyable and effective. Integrating games, songs, technology, and meaningful practice ensures children not only learn to speak clearly but also gain the confidence to use English in real-life situations.

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