

FORMATION OF PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE AND CREATIVITY OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION EDUCATORS

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Abstract: The professional competence and creativity of preschool educators play a crucial role in shaping children's early learning experiences. Educators must possess pedagogical expertise, emotional intelligence, and innovative teaching skills to create an engaging environment. This thesis explores methods for enhancing these qualities through continuous training, technology integration, and institutional support, ensuring the highest standards in early childhood education.

Keywords: professional competence, creativity, preschool education, teacher development, early childhood learning, innovative pedagogy

The formation of professional competence and creativity in preschool educators is a fundamental aspect of early childhood education. The early years of a child's life are critical for cognitive, emotional, and social development, making the role of educators highly significant. Preschool teachers must possess a deep understanding of child psychology, pedagogy, and developmental theories while also being able to adapt to the evolving needs of young learners. Their ability to create engaging, stimulating, and supportive environments greatly influences children's early learning experiences. Creativity in teaching enables educators to introduce innovative methods that captivate young minds, while professional competence ensures structured, research-based pedagogical approaches that enhance children's development. The integration of these two elements results in an effective learning process that nurtures curiosity, independence, and a love for knowledge in young learners.

Professional competence in preschool education comprises several essential components, including knowledge of child development, curriculum planning, classroom management, and communication skills. An educator's ability to understand the physical, cognitive, and emotional growth patterns of children allows for the implementation of age-appropriate teaching methods. Vygotsky's theory of socio-cultural development, Piaget's cognitive development stages, and Erikson's psychosocial development framework provide essential insights into children's learning processes. Educators must apply these theoretical foundations in real classroom settings to facilitate meaningful learning experiences. Moreover,

structured lesson planning and curriculum design enable educators to provide systematic instruction while allowing flexibility for child-led learning experiences. A well-designed curriculum integrates storytelling, play-based learning, music, art, and sensory activities that support holistic development.

Classroom management is another crucial component of professional competence. Preschool educators must create a safe, structured, and inclusive environment where children feel comfortable expressing themselves. This involves setting clear expectations, using positive reinforcement, and addressing behavioral challenges in a nurturing manner. Emotional intelligence is key to understanding children's emotions and responding effectively to their needs. Teachers with high emotional intelligence build strong, trusting relationships with children, helping them feel valued and supported in their learning journey. Effective communication skills further enhance the learning process by facilitating clear interactions with both students and parents. Strong parent-teacher partnerships contribute to children's success by ensuring consistency between home and school learning experiences.

Creativity in preschool education plays an equally significant role in fostering an engaging and effective learning environment. Young children learn best through imaginative play, exploration, and hands-on experiences. Educators who employ creative teaching strategies make learning enjoyable and memorable. Storytelling, role-playing, interactive games, and project-based learning are effective techniques that encourage children to think critically and express their ideas. Integrating multiple disciplines, such as combining music with language learning or incorporating visual arts into science lessons, allows children to explore concepts in a multifaceted way. Creative teaching approaches help develop problem-solving skills, curiosity, and a lifelong passion for learning.

The use of modern technology in preschool education has further expanded opportunities for creative and interactive teaching. Digital tools such as interactive whiteboards, educational applications, and virtual storytelling platforms provide dynamic ways to engage children. Educators who are proficient in digital literacy can enhance their teaching methods by incorporating multimedia resources, interactive games, and personalized learning experiences. However, the use of technology must be balanced with hands-on, sensory-rich activities to ensure holistic development. Training programs that equip educators with the skills to effectively integrate technology into their teaching enhance both their professional competence and creative abilities.

Collaboration among educators further strengthens professional competence and creativity. When teachers work together to develop lesson plans, share best

practices, and engage in interdisciplinary projects, they expand their knowledge and teaching strategies. Joint lesson planning, team-based problem-solving, and participation in research initiatives create an environment of continuous learning and improvement. Networking with child psychologists, curriculum specialists, and researchers also provides valuable insights that enhance teaching effectiveness. By fostering a culture of collaboration, preschool institutions ensure that educators remain engaged, inspired, and committed to delivering high-quality education.

In conclusion, the formation of professional competence and creativity in preschool educators is essential for fostering an enriching and effective learning environment for young children. Professional competence encompasses a deep understanding of child development, curriculum design, classroom management, and communication skills, while creativity enhances engagement and innovation in teaching. Integrating technology, continuous professional development, institutional support, and collaboration further strengthen these qualities. Investing in educators' growth ensures that children receive the best possible start in their educational journey, laying the foundation for lifelong learning and success.

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