

## **TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES TO KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN AS AN EXAMPLE OF ENGLISH**

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**Annotation:** This article explores effective strategies for teaching foreign languages to kindergarten children, emphasizing the importance of creating an engaging and interactive learning environment. It highlights various methods, such as incorporating visual aids, play-based learning, storytelling, and cultural elements, to enhance language acquisition. Additionally, the article provides practical examples and resources, ensuring that educators can implement these strategies in their classrooms. By fostering a love for languages through fun and meaningful activities, the article aims to inspire teachers to nurture young learners' linguistic skills and cultural awareness from an early age.

**Keywords:** Foreign languages, Kindergarten, Language teaching, Early childhood education, Interactive learning, Play-based learning, Bilingual education, Cultural awareness, Visual aids, Storytelling, Language acquisition, Educational resources, Classroom activities, Language-rich environment.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Introducing a foreign language at an early age enhances the capacity of the brain, which in turn brings life-long benefits, improves their memory and cognitive performance. It is also both rewarding and affective, setting a strong foundation for language skills in an increasingly globalized world. So why not start in kindergarten when the children are most receptive, fresh, eager to learn, highly motivated, curious and ready to absorb knowledge like a sponge? Here are some key strategies and techniques to engage young learners in language acquisition.

### **Main part**

Teaching foreign languages to kindergarteners can be a wonderfully rewarding experience that shapes a lifelong appreciation for language and culture. Early childhood is a critical period for language learning, as young minds are highly receptive and naturally curious about new sounds, words, and cultural elements. The key to teaching languages effectively at this stage is to make the process engaging, interactive, and supportive. Here are some effective strategies, along with practical examples, that help foster a love for language learning in young children.

Creating a language-rich environment is foundational. Visual aids, such as posters, flashcards, and labels placed around the classroom, are highly effective. For example, labeling classroom objects in both the native and target languages—like “door” labeled as “eshik” in Uzbek—helps children associate words with their meanings through constant exposure. Additionally, multimedia resources like songs, videos, and child-friendly apps introduce an element of fun and repetition. Apps like Duolingo Kids or YouTube channels with songs in the target language, such as “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes,” incorporate movement and music, which are naturally engaging for children.

Play-based learning is another core strategy, as young learners are highly responsive to games and imaginative play. Incorporating games like “Simon Says” in the target language, where commands like “Salta” mean “jump,” transforms vocabulary building into an exciting challenge. Role-playing can also help children practice conversational skills in a comfortable setting. Setting up a pretend “café,” for example, allows them to practice ordering food in the new language using phrases like “I would like...” or “Please give me...”

Storytelling and songs are powerful tools that capture children’s attention and convey language in memorable ways. During storytime, reading bilingual books like “Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?” and using expressive gestures or puppets can make the storytelling interactive. Simple songs and rhymes, such as “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star” in French, aid in memorization and pronunciation. Adding actions to the song reinforces vocabulary in a multisensory way, engaging both the mind and body.

Encouraging interaction and communication among children enhances confidence and fluency. Activities like pair work, where children practice simple greetings in the target language, promote conversational skills in a low-pressure setting. One child might say “Salom” (Hello), and the other responds “Ahvollaringiz

qanday?” (How are you?). Regular “show and tell” sessions allow children to bring an item from home and describe it in the foreign language, deepening their personal connection to the language.

Integrating cultural elements fosters a broader understanding and appreciation of the language’s context. Introducing cultural celebrations, such as Chinese New Year, involves teaching children a few traditions, foods, and a simple greeting like “Xīnnián hǎo” (Happy New Year), with related crafts like lantern making. Sharing folktales like “The Three Little Pigs” in both languages and discussing cultural storytelling differences enriches their learning experience by connecting language with cultural expression.

Repetition and routine are crucial for young learners, as consistent practice reinforces vocabulary and builds confidence. Starting each day with a familiar “Hello” song or using phrases like “Today is...” helps children become comfortable with the language. Repeating key phrases during daily routines, such as saying “Time to clean up!” in the target language, further reinforces their learning in meaningful contexts.

Patience and encouragement play a major role in language acquisition. Positive reinforcement, like a “language star” chart where children earn stars for using the foreign language in class, can motivate and build self-esteem. Flexibility is also essential, as children learn at different paces. For example, if a child struggles with vocabulary, offering picture cards allows them to express themselves without feeling left out, ensuring that every child feels included in the activity.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, teaching foreign languages to kindergarten children involves creativity, patience, and a focus on engagement. By creating a supportive environment and incorporating interactive, playful methods, educators can inspire a love for languages that lasts a lifetime. The goal is not just to teach words and grammar but to open a door to new cultures and ways of thinking, enriching their lives with new perspectives and connections.

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