

IMPORTANCE OF TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

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Annotation: This article discusses the importance and effectiveness of teaching foreign languages in primary schools. It highlights the unique approaches required for young learners, focusing on game-based, visual, and interactive teaching methods. The use of modern resources such as Quizlet, Duolingo, and Oxford Owl is also explored, emphasizing their role in engaging students and reinforcing language skills. Additionally, the article stresses the cultural and social development that occurs when young students are exposed to foreign languages, helping them grow linguistically and broaden their worldview.

Key words: Primary school, foreign language teaching, game-based learning, visual method, interactive activities, vocabulary development, language acquisition, student engagement, teaching methods, multimedia resources, children's communication, learning activities.

INTRODUCTION

In today's globalized world, knowledge of foreign languages is not only important for academic or professional purposes but also for everyday life. Early exposure to foreign languages during primary education is crucial for the intellectual and social development of children. Young children are at a stage where their brains are particularly adept at acquiring new languages, making it easier for them to learn pronunciation and vocabulary.

Teaching foreign languages in primary schools is crucial for several reasons. First, it helps young learners develop cognitive skills, such as problem-solving and critical thinking, which are essential for their overall academic success. Early exposure to foreign languages also enhances brain development, making it easier for children to grasp other languages later in life.

Additionally, learning foreign languages promotes cultural awareness and global understanding. In an increasingly interconnected world, the ability to communicate with people from different cultures and backgrounds is vital. It fosters empathy, respect, and the appreciation of diversity.

Furthermore, introducing foreign languages at an early age has been shown to improve literacy skills in the child's native language, as it strengthens their understanding of grammar, vocabulary, and syntax. Finally, in a globalized economy, bilingualism or multilingualism is a valuable asset that can open doors to future academic and professional opportunities.

Teaching foreign languages in primary schools helps students develop core language skills such as reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Moreover, learning a new language introduces children to different cultures and ways of life, broadening their worldview. The primary goal in teaching foreign languages at this stage is not merely to focus on grammar or vocabulary, but to prepare children to communicate confidently in the new language.

Teaching Methods; Various methods can be effectively used for teaching foreign languages to young learners. These methods are age-appropriate and designed to engage children in an interactive and enjoyable learning process.

1. *Game-Based Learning:* Since children love playing games, integrating games into language lessons can greatly increase their interest. For instance, vocabulary-building games, role-playing activities, and movement-based word recall exercises can help students retain new words and phrases while having fun. This method encourages active participation and allows children to practice language skills in a playful context.

2. *Visual Method:* Using visual aids such as pictures, videos, and multimedia tools helps capture children's attention and makes it easier for them to memorize new words and phrases. Flashcards, colorful storybooks, and animated videos are particularly effective in engaging young learners in language learning.

3. *Interactive Activities:* Group work and pair activities provide children with opportunities to use the language in practice. These interactive lessons encourage communication between students and foster collaboration, allowing them to help each other improve their language skills.

Useful Resources for Teaching; Modern technology provides valuable tools to enhance the learning experience and make language acquisition more engaging for

young learners. Here are some recommended resources for teaching foreign languages in primary schools:

1. *Quizlet*: A platform that helps students expand their vocabulary through interactive flashcards and games. Quizlet's features make it easy for young learners to remember new words and practice them in a fun way.

2. *Duolingo*: A free language-learning app that offers game-like lessons. Duolingo's engaging and simple lessons are ideal for primary school students, providing daily exercises that make learning fun.

3. *Oxford Owl*: A platform offering free e-books tailored for primary school students. These books help young learners improve their reading skills in English and develop better comprehension.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion teaching foreign languages in primary schools should be engaging and effective. By using games, visual aids, and interactive activities, children can learn a new language in a way that is both enjoyable and practical. Moreover, modern technologies and online resources provide additional support for teachers and students alike. Most importantly, learning a foreign language at a young age helps children grow not only linguistically but also culturally.

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