DEVELOPING CREATIVE ABILITIES IN PREPARATORY GROUPS OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

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Abstract. This study explores the theoretical and practical foundations for developing creative abilities in children enrolled in preparatory groups of preschool educational institutions. Activities such as drawing, storytelling, and role-playing games were analyzed to determine their effects on children's creative thinking, imagination, verbal communication, and aesthetic perception. Experimental work was conducted with experimental and control groups. The findings showed that targeted creative sessions significantly improved children's personal development. This research offers practical recommendations for implementing effective creativity-based pedagogical approaches in preschool settings.

Keywords: preschool education, preparatory group, creativity, drawing, role-play, pedagogy, creative activity.

Introduction. In the modern educational system, preschool education serves as the foundational stage in nurturing a well-rounded generation. Early development of creative abilities plays a vital role in fostering children's independent thinking, broadening their cognitive outlook, and enhancing social engagement. Creativity is not limited to the realms of art or culture—it reflects a child's worldview, problem-solving abilities, and capacity for free thought. Identifying and nurturing such abilities in preparatory groups through modern pedagogical approaches is crucial. The relevance of this research lies in the significant role creativity plays in helping children adapt successfully to subsequent educational stages and express their ideas confidently.

Creativity is a key personal attribute that develops imagination, independent thinking, and aesthetic sense. Studies show that creative exercises such as drawing, storytelling, and role-playing effectively enhance preschool children's creative potential. Artistic activities provide children with tools for self-expression, expanding their imagination and aesthetic awareness. According to research, innovative educational technologies and new approaches are vital to effectively foster creativity in young children.

Play-based learning is another powerful tool in developing creativity. Role-play allows children to explore different social roles, resolve problems, and practice communication. Educators play a central role in guiding this development. Their creative approach, recognition of each child's individuality, and method of organizing

activities significantly influence creative growth. Evidence shows that the teacher's creativity greatly contributes to enhancing children's own creative capacities.

The empirical part of this research involved 40 children in a preschool preparatory group. They were divided equally into experimental and control groups. The groups were balanced by age, gender, and developmental level. The experimental group participated in specially designed creative sessions, while the control group followed a standard curriculum.

Methods used in the study included:

- Observation: Monitoring children's behavior during drawing, storytelling, and role-playing activities.

- Experimental method: Conducting structured creative sessions with the experimental group and comparing results.

- Interviews and surveys: Collecting insights from teachers, psychologists, and parents.

- Diagnostic tests: Tools such as 'Create a Story from a Picture', 'Find the Continuation', and 'Creative Drawing'.

The study assessed changes in the level of creativity before and after the experimental phase using quantitative indicators. Initially, in the experimental group, 30% showed high creativity, 45% medium, and 25% low. Post-experiment, these numbers shifted to 55% high, 35% medium, and only 10% low. The control group, however, showed negligible changes: 28% high, 50% medium, and 22% low. This indicates the effectiveness of the creative sessions designed for the experimental group.

The analysis demonstrates that systematically organized creative activities significantly improve children's ability to think creatively, show emotional initiative, and act independently. The findings confirm the effectiveness of the applied pedagogical strategies.

The conducted research confirmed that developing creative abilities in preparatory groups of preschool institutions positively impacts children's thinking, imagination, speech activity, and aesthetic perception. Activities such as drawing, storytelling, and role-play significantly enhance creativity, encourage independent thinking, and foster initiative. A comparative analysis between the control and experimental groups validated the success of the applied methodologies. Thus, integrating creativity-oriented methods into preschool education contributes not only to children's creative growth but also to their intellectual, emotional, and social maturity. The results serve as a foundation for implementing innovative practices in early childhood education.