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EFFECTIVE METHODS FOR TEACHING ENGLISH TO PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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Аннотация: В данной статье рассматриваются наиболее эффективные методики обучения английскому языку учащихся начальных классов. Автор анализирует психологические особенности детей младшего школьного возраста и предлагает практические подходы, такие как игровой метод, метод полного физического реагирования (TPR) и использование мультимедийных технологий. Основное внимание уделяется созданию мотивирующей языковой среды, способствующей естественному усвоению иностранного языка.

Ключевые слова: начальная школа, обучение английскому языку, игровые методики, TPR, мотивация, коммуникативный подход, младшие школьники.

Abstract: This article examines the most effective methods for teaching English to primary school students. The author analyzes the psychological characteristics of young learners and suggests practical approaches, such as the gamification, Total Physical Response (TPR), and the use of multimedia technologies. The primary focus is on creating a motivating language environment that facilitates the natural acquisition of a foreign language.

Keywords: primary school, English language teaching, game-based learning, TPR, motivation, communicative approach, young learners.

Introduction

Teaching English to primary school students is a task that requires not only linguistic proficiency but also a deep understanding of child psychology and pedagogy. At this age (6–11 years), children are characterized by high curiosity, a natural plasticity of the brain, and an ability to imitate sounds perfectly. However, they also possess a short attention span and a lack of intrinsic motivation to study abstract grammatical rules.

The modern educational paradigm shifts the focus from "learning about the language" to "acquiring the language" through communication and activity. To make the process successful, teachers must transform the classroom into a dynamic environment where the language is a tool for discovery, not just a subject to be memorized.

1. Psychological Foundations of Young Learners

Before selecting a teaching method, it is crucial to recognize that primary school students perceive the world holistically. They do not separate language into "grammar" or "vocabulary"; they see it as a means of interaction. Key factors to consider include:

- **Active Imagination:** Children live in a world of stories and play.
- **Kinesthetic Learning:** Physical movement is essential for their cognitive

development.



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- **Visual Dominance:** Visual aids are much more effective than verbal explanations.

2. Core Methodologies for the Primary Classroom

2.1. Total Physical Response (TPR)

Developed by James Asher, TPR is based on the coordination of language and physical movement. In a typical TPR lesson, the teacher gives commands in English ("Stand up," "Touch your nose"), and students respond with physical actions.

- **Why it works:** It reduces learner stress (the "silent period") and mimics how children learn their first language.

- **Application:** Ideal for teaching imperatives, action verbs, and basic vocabulary.

2.2. The Communicative Language Teaching (CLT)

CLT emphasizes interaction as both the means and the ultimate goal of study. For primary students, this involves pair work, role-plays, and information-gap activities.

- **Application:** Instead of memorizing a dialogue about a shop, students set up a "classroom market" where they must "buy" items using English phrases.

2.3. Gamification and Game-Based Learning

Play is the natural "work" of a child. Games like "Simon Says," "Bingo," or digital platforms like Kahoot! create a competitive and fun atmosphere.

- **Benefits:** Games lower the affective filter (anxiety), making students more willing to take risks and speak.

3. The Role of Multimedia and Visual Aids

In the 21st century, the use of songs (Jazz Chants), cartoons, and interactive whiteboards is indispensable. Songs help in teaching phonetics and rhythm, while visual flashcards provide the necessary context to understand meanings without translating into the native language.

4. Lesson Planning and Management

A successful lesson for young learners should be "chunked" into short segments (10–15 minutes each) to maintain focus. A standard structure includes:

1. **Warm-up:** A song or a quick physical activity.
2. **Presentation:** Introducing new material using visuals.
3. **Practice:** Controlled activities (matching, repetition).
4. **Production:** Creative use of the language (drawing and describing).
5. **Cool-down:** Reflection and rewarding.

Conclusion

Effective teaching of English in primary school is a blend of science and art. It requires the teacher to be an entertainer, a facilitator, and a guide. By integrating TPR, games, and communicative tasks, educators can foster a positive attitude towards language learning that will last a lifetime. The goal is not to force the child to speak, but to create a situation where the child *wants* to speak.



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