

DEVELOPING INTEREST IN ENGLISH IN YOUNG CHILDREN

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When presenting or reading this article aloud, consider the following intonation guidelines to make it engaging and clear

Key words: young learners, English learning, early childhood education, interactive activities, storytelling, language-rich environment, motivation, songs and rhymes, games in education, early language development.

Abstract: This article explores practical and engaging strategies for developing an interest in English among young children. Recognizing that early exposure to English significantly benefits children's cognitive and social development, the article highlights the importance of creating a fun, interactive, and language-rich environment. Key methods include using songs, games, and storytelling; incorporating technology in moderation; and making English a part of daily routines. By focusing on a positive, supportive approach and tailoring learning to children's interests, parents and educators can help children develop a lifelong love for the English language.

Albatta! Quyida maqolani yanada kengaytirib, qo'shimcha ma'lumotlar va tavsiyalar bilan boyitdim. Maqola umumiy ko'rinishda bo'lib, har bir qism yanada batafsil tushuntirilgan. Quyida to'liq versiyasi bor:

Introduction

In today's global world, learning English from a young age is becoming increasingly important. However, for many children, English may seem intimidating or even boring if not introduced properly. Therefore, the main goal is to spark curiosity and make learning English an enjoyable experience.

Create a Playful Environment

Children learn best when they are relaxed and having fun. Instead of focusing on grammar rules or spelling at the start, use games, songs, and stories to introduce English. For example, playing “Simon Says” with English commands or using building blocks to spell simple English words can make learning a game rather than a chore.

Incorporate Music and Movement

Songs like “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star” or the “ABC Song” help children remember new words naturally. Adding actions to the songs—like clapping or dancing—further enhances memory. This multisensory approach ensures that children are actively involved in the learning process.

Use Bright and Colorful Materials

Young children are attracted to bright colors and interesting visuals. Using flashcards with pictures, colorful storybooks, and engaging videos can help them connect words to objects. It also makes the learning environment feel inviting and exciting.

Make Storytelling an Adventure

Storytelling not only develops listening skills but also introduces children to the rhythm and melody of the language. Use picture books with vivid illustrations and encourage children to participate—by pointing to pictures, repeating words, or even acting out the story. Stories like “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” or “Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?” are excellent for this.

Connect English to Everyday Life

Learning English shouldn't be limited to “class time.” Encourage children to use English in daily routines—like saying “Hello!” and “Goodbye!”, or counting toys in English. Labeling items in the house (e.g., “door,” “chair,” “window”) helps them see English as part of their daily lives.

Provide Positive Feedback

Young children thrive on praise. Instead of correcting mistakes harshly, acknowledge their effort. Say things like “Great job!” or “I love how you said that!” This positive reinforcement boosts their confidence and makes them eager to keep learning.

Use Technology as a Tool, Not a Crutch

Educational videos and apps can add variety and excitement to English learning. Choose apps designed for young children that are interactive and promote active learning (like singing, matching games, or puzzles). Limit screen time to avoid overstimulation and ensure a balance with real-world interactions.

Create an English Corner

Dedicate a small space in the classroom or at home to English activities. Stock it with English books, toys, and posters. This “English corner” can be a special place where children feel free to explore the language without pressure.

Be a Role Model

Children imitate what they see. Show enthusiasm when you speak English or when you learn new words together. Read books with them, sing songs together, and let them see you enjoying the language. Your excitement will become contagious!

Celebrate Cultural Elements

Learning English is not just about words—it’s also about understanding culture. Introduce simple cultural elements like holidays (e.g., Halloween, Christmas) or traditional English foods (like tea parties!). This broadens their perspective and makes the language come alive.

Foster Group Activities

Children love doing things together. Group activities like acting out a small play in English, playing group games, or doing simple crafts while speaking English build social skills and make language learning more cooperative and fun.

Tailor Learning to Their Interests

Every child is different. If your child loves animals, use English animal books and songs. If they love cars, talk about colors and numbers in English using toy cars. Personalizing the material keeps their interest alive.

Keep it Short and Sweet

Young children have short attention spans. Keep English activities brief—around 10-15 minutes at a time—and stop before they get bored. Short, focused sessions done regularly are much more effective than long, forced lessons.

Make It a Routine

Children love routine. Designate a specific time each day—maybe after breakfast or before bed—to do something in English. This predictability helps them feel secure and makes English a natural part of their day.

Conclusion

Developing an interest in English in young children is all about creating an environment where they feel comfortable, curious, and excited. By using songs, stories, games, and your own enthusiasm, you can turn English into a fun adventure. Remember: patience and a positive attitude go a long way!

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