

INNOVATIVE METHODS OF WORKING WITH PRESCHOOL CHILDREN IN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION SETTINGS**Gafforova Khurriyat**

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Abstract

This article highlights innovative methods, pedagogical technologies, and practical mechanisms for working with preschool children in inclusive education settings. It also analyzes ways to ensure children's individual development, strengthen their social adaptation, and improve educational effectiveness on the basis of modern approaches.

Keywords

inclusive education, innovative methods, individual approach, differentiated instruction, preschool education, pedagogical technology, STEAM, assistive tools.

Today, the principle of inclusiveness has become one of the priority directions in the education system. In particular, according to the ideas promoted by UNESCO and UNICEF, every child has the right to receive quality education regardless of health condition, ability, or level of development. Inclusive education means not only integrating children with special needs into the general educational environment, but also creating equal conditions for all children.

Preschool age is the most important stage of personality development, because it is during this period that socialization, speech, thinking, and the emotional sphere are formed. Therefore, the proper organization of inclusive education exactly at the preschool stage is of great significance.

The preschool period (ages 3–7) is considered the most crucial stage in the formation of a child as an individual. At this stage, speech, thinking, social relationships, emotional stability, and independence skills develop intensively. For this reason, the proper organization of inclusive education at the preschool level is regarded as an important factor for the future development of society.

Inclusive education is based on the following principles:

- Equal opportunities
- Individual approach
- Differentiated instruction
- Social integration

In an inclusive environment, the educator should organize the teaching process by taking into account the needs of each child. This requires the use of innovative methods and technologies.

Differentiated instruction is the adaptation of the teaching process by grouping children according to their level of knowledge, abilities, pace of development, and individual needs.

The theoretical foundation of the differentiated approach is based on Lev S. Vygotsky's concept of the **Zone of Proximal Development**. According to this concept, a child is able to perform tasks that they cannot complete independently, but can accomplish with the help of adults or peers. Therefore, tasks should match the child's ability while being slightly more challenging.

Each child has their own pace of development and unique abilities. As an innovative approach, this includes:

- Creating an individual development map
- Designing adapted educational materials
- Providing flexible tasks

This method increases children's self-confidence and supports their individual progress.

Integrative activities organized on the basis of the STEAM approach ensure the comprehensive development of preschool children. Especially in inclusive education settings, this approach strengthens equal participation, creativity, and social adaptation of children.

A modern educator should master STEAM technology deeply in order to organize the educational process in an innovative, engaging, and effective way. The STEAM approach combines science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics. In an inclusive environment, this approach:

- Supports sensory development
- Ensures learning through practical activity
- Involves children with different abilities in one common process

For example, while working with construction sets, each child can participate according to their own abilities and developmental level.

Digital technologies are electronic and multimedia tools used in the educational process for creating, processing, transmitting, and presenting information. In preschool education, digital technologies increase children's interest, strengthen visual learning, and support an individual approach.

Assistive tools are special technical or software devices that enable children with special needs to participate independently and actively in the educational process. In inclusive education settings, these tools play an important role in ensuring equal opportunities.

Modern information technologies improve the effectiveness of inclusive education, including:

- Interactive whiteboards
- Speech development applications
- Visual presentation programs
- Touchscreen devices

For children with special educational needs, audio instructions and visual pictograms provide significant support.

Play therapy is a psychological and pedagogical method aimed at expressing and overcoming children's internal experiences, fears, and emotions through play activities.

Its theoretical foundations go back to the studies of **Lev S. Vygotsky** and **Jean Piaget**. According to their views, play plays an essential role in the development of a child's thinking and social experience.

At preschool age, play is considered the leading activity. As an innovative method, the following can be used:

- Role-playing games
- Psychological relaxation activities
- Music therapy
- Working with colors and clay

These methods strengthen children's emotional stability and enhance their social adaptation.

Cooperative learning technology is a pedagogical approach aimed at developing knowledge, skills, and social experience through children's collaborative work in small groups. In this technology, each participant contributes to the overall result, and success depends on mutual cooperation among group members.

In an inclusive group, dividing children into small teams helps to:

- Develop mutual assistance skills
- Form empathy
- Strengthen social integration

This approach reduces social barriers between typically developing children and children with special needs.

A multidisciplinary approach is a pedagogical method aimed at ensuring a child's overall development by integrating knowledge from several disciplines or fields in the educational process. This approach preserves the specific features of each discipline while directing them toward a common purpose.

In preschool education, the multidisciplinary approach helps develop children's social, emotional, cognitive, motor, and aesthetic abilities simultaneously.

For inclusive education to be effective, the cooperation of the following participants is essential:

- Educator
- Defectologist / special education specialist
- Speech therapist
- Psychologist
- Parents

Teamwork helps ensure the child's comprehensive development.

Inclusive education is not only about involving children with special needs in the educational process, but also about forming the principles of equality and humanity in society. The use of innovative methods at the preschool education stage ensures children's intellectual, emotional, and social development.

A modern educator should be able to master innovative technologies, apply an individual approach, and be ready for collaboration. A favorable environment created in inclusive settings serves to educate a tolerant and socially active future generation.

In the modern preschool education process, innovative pedagogical approaches play a significant role in ensuring children's comprehensive development. Differentiated and individualized teaching technologies make it possible to organize education according to each child's abilities and pace of development. Through the STEAM approach, children develop creative and analytical thinking through integrative activities in science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics. Digital technologies and assistive tools ensure equal participation of children in an inclusive environment and make the educational process interactive and visual.

Play therapy and art therapy help stabilize children's emotional state, develop creative thinking, and expand opportunities for self-expression. Cooperative learning technology forms children's social skills, collaboration, and leadership, while the multidisciplinary approach integrates knowledge and skills through interdisciplinary interaction.

As a result, the harmonious application of the above pedagogical approaches ensures children's social, emotional, cognitive, and motor development to the maximum extent and improves the quality of inclusive education. By using these methods purposefully and innovatively, modern educators can make the educational process more effective, interesting, and productive.

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