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CONTENT AND DIRECTIONS OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION IN THE WORLD EDUCATION SYSTEM.

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Abstract

This article examines the content of the global preschool education system, modern approaches, advanced practices and methodologies used in practice to ensure the comprehensive development of children, and their impact on the educational process. The experiences and methodologies of developed countries around the world, the results of ongoing research, and current studies related to children's cognitive abilities, physical development, psychological development, social and emotional development, speech development, artistic and creative development, as well as their formation as individuals in further education and life, are discussed in detail.

Keywords: Cognitive development, Waldorf pedagogy, Montessori methodology, multiculturalism.

Preschool education is the first foundation of modern education and the education system, and is considered to be of decisive importance in the personal, social, emotional, intellectual and physical development of the child. Various approaches and methodologies are being established in the preschool education system, which operates on the basis of modern technologies in world practice.



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The following areas are of priority in the modern preschool education system today:

Cognitive development: Developing children's thinking skills, memory, attention and problem-solving skills. This process is carried out through games, research and practical exercises.

Socio-emotional development: Understanding children's emotions, communicating with others, working together and developing a sense of empathy are important areas.

Physical development: Developing large and small motor skills, balance and coordination, and forming the foundations for a healthy lifestyle.

Speech and Language Development: Development of oral speech, vocabulary, listening and comprehension skills, preparation for literacy.

Creative Development: Expanding the child's imagination and creative abilities through art, music, dramatization.

Main approaches used in the world. Montessori Method: This approach, developed by Maria Montessori, is based on the child's independent learning, free choice in a specially prepared environment. Daily life skills, sensory development and self-regulation, culture, language and mathematics zones form the basis of this method and are considered one of the most effective methods of child development.

Reggio Emilia Approach: This approach, created in Italy, views the child as a researcher. Project work, creative expression and the use of the environment as a "third teacher" are the distinctive features of this approach. In this approach, the child's self-confidence increases significantly.

Waldorf Pedagogy: This system, created by Rudolf Steiner, aims to balance the child's spiritual, physical and intellectual development. Natural materials, rhythmic activities, and art are key.



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Play-based learning: This approach, popular in Scandinavian countries, particularly Finland and Sweden, encourages children to learn through natural play activities.

HighScope approach: This method, developed in the United States, is based on the "plan-do-review" cycle and emphasizes the child's role as an active learner.

Current trends and directions.

Digital integration: In many developed countries, digital tools and programs adapted for preschool children are used, but screen time is limited and managed in a purposeful way.

Inclusive education: Including children with special needs in general groups and supporting their individual development is widely used in world practice.

STEAM approach: The integrated teaching of science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics is a modern trend.

Ecological education: Connecting children with nature, instilling the ideas of environmental protection, outdoor education is gaining popularity.

Multiculturalism and multilingualism: In the context of globalization, respect for different cultures and languages, and the creation of multilingual environments are considered important directions.

Key indicators of quality preschool education:

According to world experience, quality preschool education includes:

- Qualified and continuously professional development of teaching staff.
- A safe, comfortable and development-oriented environment.
- Effective cooperation with parents and their involvement.
- Attention to the individual needs of each child.
- A program and activities based on the interests of the child and based on play.
- Group size and teacher-child ratio.
- Regular monitoring and evaluation systems.



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-Problems and challenges.

There are several challenges in the field of preschool education worldwide:

- Ensuring access to quality preschool education for all children.
- The shortage of working-class educators and the problem of their salaries.
- The equal opportunity gap between different socio-economic groups.
- Eliminating the impact of the pandemic and global changes.
- Creating a balance between technology and traditional methods and creating methods that give tangible results and applying them globally.

Preschool education in the global education system encompasses a variety of approaches and methodologies. The most effective systems use approaches that integrate children's natural interests, learning through play, individual development, and quality pedagogical processes. In the future, preschool education is expected to be more inclusive, technologically rich, environmentally conscious, and responsive to the unique needs of each child. Investing in preschool education is investing in the future of society, as this period lays the foundation for a child's life path and success.

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