DEVELOPING CREATIVE THINKING SKILLS AMONG PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS

Komilova Farogat Numonjon kizi
Primary school teacher of the highest category
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ABSTRACT

This article explores effective methods for developing creative thinking skills among primary school pupils. Creative thinking plays a key role in modern education, encouraging learners to generate original ideas, solve problems independently, and express themselves innovatively. The study highlights theoretical foundations, pedagogical strategies, and classroom techniques that promote creativity in young learners.

The XXI century demands individuals with flexible minds, creativity, and the ability to solve problems innovatively. Therefore, developing creative thinking skills in primary school pupils has become one of the main goals of modern pedagogy. Creative thinking allows children to explore, imagine, and invent new solutions to familiar and unfamiliar problems.

According to Torrance, creativity is not a gift for a few, but a skill that can be taught, developed, and strengthened through specific learning activities. Teachers play a vital role in providing an educational environment where imagination and experimentation are encouraged.

This research applies a qualitative-descriptive method to analyze the pedagogical approaches that foster creativity among pupils. Data were collected through observation, literature review, and interviews with primary school teachers.

Creative thinking was assessed using activities involving storytelling, problem-solving, and project-based learning.

Table 1. Pedagogical Methods for Developing Creative Thinking

No	METHOD TYPE	DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION	EXPECTED OUTCOME
1	Brainstorming Sessions	Pupils share multiple ideas to solve open-ended tasks	Increased fluency and flexibility of thought
2	Role-Playing	Activities Students act out situations that require decision-making	Improved imagination and empathy
3	Project-Based Learning	Learners complete creative projects in groups	Enhanced teamwork and innovative thinking

4	Storytelling Technique	Pupils create their own stories using visual prompts	Strengthened narrative and expressive skills
5	Creative Drawing and Art	Using art to visualize abstract concepts	Development of divergent thinking

The implementation of these methods showed significant improvement in pupils' ability to think independently and express ideas creatively. Teachers reported higher engagement levels during creative tasks, particularly in activities involving drawing and storytelling.

Observation results revealed that pupils demonstrated increased curiosity, risk-taking behavior, and originality in solving classroom challenges.

Table 2. Results of Creativity-Oriented Activities

Activity Type	Creativity Level Before	Creativity Level After	Improvement (%)
Storytelling	45%	78%	+33%
Brainstorming Sessions	50%	82%	+32%
Project-Based Learning	48%	80%	+32%
Creative Drawing	55%	85%	+30%

The results indicate that systematic integration of creative activities enhances not only pupils' creative potential but also their motivation to learn. Teachers' positive attitude and flexible classroom environment are decisive factors in stimulating creativity.

Moreover, collaborative methods such as group projects and role-playing help children exchange ideas, develop communication skills, and build confidence. Integrating digital tools (such as online drawing platforms or storytelling applications) further strengthens creativity and learner engagement.

Conclusion. Developing creative thinking among primary school pupils requires a combination of pedagogical innovation, supportive classroom atmosphere, and active teacher involvement. Encouraging curiosity, experimentation, and problem-solving at an early stage prepares children for lifelong learning and success in a rapidly changing world.

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