



METHODS AND MEANS OF ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IN PRESCHOOL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes effective methods for providing ecological education to preschool-aged children. It substantiates the importance of ecological education in fostering children's responsible attitudes toward the environment. The unique aspects of ecological education methods and their impact on developing children's aesthetic awareness are explored. Furthermore, the article discusses opportunities to enhance the effectiveness of ecological education by utilizing modern pedagogical approaches and innovative methods. Methodological recommendations are provided to further improve ecological education in preschool educational institutions.

Introduction

The preschool period is an important stage in the formation of a child's personality and in shaping the foundations of their worldview. During this stage, providing children with ecological education, shaping their attitude toward the environment, and nurturing respect for nature play a crucial role. Ecological upbringing deepens children's interaction with nature, develops their ecological awareness, and instills the principles of sustainable development.

In modern pedagogy, various methods of ecological education are used, among which visual, practical, and oral methods are widely applied. Visual methods include demonstrating nature, using colorful pictures and photographs. Practical methods involve direct interaction with nature—such as excursions and gardening activities. Oral methods provide children with ecological knowledge through stories, tales, and poems.

In Uzbekistan's preschool education system, several programs aimed at introducing ecological education and culture are being implemented. For instance, projects coordinated by the OSCE Project Coordinator's Office, the Ministry of Preschool Education, and other organizations are directed toward strengthening ecological education.

This article analyzes the effectiveness of ecological education methods in preschool institutions. The unique characteristics and advantages of each method and their role in developing children's ecological awareness are examined. Additionally, modern pedagogical approaches and innovative methods for improving the effectiveness of ecological education are discussed.

Children's ecological culture, knowledge, practical skills, and aesthetic experience form the basis of their behavior. A preschool child must learn compassion toward living beings: a living creature feels pain, it must be loved, animals must not be harmed, and humans have no

right to destroy what nature has created. We must instill in children the notion that the surrounding world is a large home shared by all. One of the oral methods is reading children's ecological literature. These may be specially recommended educational texts or works of classical writers. Many contemporary authors also publish books on nature, animals, and environmental protection.

1. Practical Methods

Practical methods allow children to apply ecological knowledge in real-life situations. Activities such as gardening, plant care, and nurturing animals enable children to interact directly with nature, helping them internalize ecological culture.

a) Modeling

This method involves using diagrams, symbols, figures, or images to represent real objects or phenomena. It helps children form a general understanding of the studied ecological concept.

b) Experiments

Ecological experiments involve observing phenomena under controlled conditions. Each experiment must have a clear goal, procedure, and materials.

c) Environmental Games

Didactic, movement-based, tabletop, or verbal games help children recognize, understand, and reinforce ecological knowledge.

2. Visual Methods

Visual methods play an important role in shaping children's perceptions of the environment. These include observations, picture viewing, demonstrations of models, and slide shows. Visual methods align with children's cognitive abilities, allowing them to form vivid and accurate representations of nature. Excursions are especially important, as they help children observe natural objects and phenomena directly, forming primary ecological concepts and aesthetic appreciation.

3. Modern Pedagogical Approaches

Modern pedagogical approaches—interactive methods, game technologies, project-based learning—enhance children's engagement and effectively develop ecological awareness. Integrated use of all methods contributes to higher effectiveness in ecological education. The study shows that integrating visual, practical, and oral methods leads to significant improvements in children's ecological awareness. Oral methods expand children's worldview and foster positive attitudes toward the environment. Practical methods enable hands-on interaction and develop ecological culture. Visual methods increase interest in nature and help internalize ecological concepts. Modern approaches further improve effectiveness by ensuring active participation. Creating nature corners in preschool groups also yields positive outcomes in ecological literacy and interest. Ecological education in preschool institutions plays an essential role in shaping children's attitudes toward the environment. Integration of visual, practical, and oral methods significantly enhances ecological awareness. Using interactive methods, project-based learning, and national pedagogical values further enriches ecological upbringing. Ultimately, ecological education aims to raise an individual who understands nature, uses its resources wisely, respects its beauty, and adopts environmentally responsible behavior. Oral methods are essential in providing children with

ecological knowledge and shaping their worldview. Through stories, tales, conversations, and discussions, children acquire ecological concepts and form attitudes toward the environment. Oral methods often accompany visual methods and are used before games, experiments, and observations..

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