



# **DIGITAL PEDAGOGY: THE ROLE OF IT TOOLS IN DEVELOPING COMMUNICATION WITH PRESCHOOL CHILDREN**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*This article discusses the essence of digital pedagogy and the role of information technology (IT) tools in developing communication skills among preschool children. It highlights the effectiveness of digital tools in forming communicative competence, their advantages in creating a modern learning environment, and the importance of enhancing teachers' digital competence in preschool education..*

The XXI century is known as the age of digital technology, where information and communication technologies (ICT) play an increasingly important role in all areas, including education. Preschool education is no exception. Digital pedagogy introduces a new approach to child development, especially in improving communication, speech, and thinking skills. IT tools have become an essential means of organizing effective communication with preschool children, making the learning process more engaging and interactive.

Digital pedagogy refers to the pedagogical approach that integrates digital technologies into teaching, learning, and educational management processes. It provides new forms of interaction between educators and learners through multimedia, online, and interactive platforms. For preschoolers, digital tools are not merely entertainment — they serve as educational resources that enhance speech, communication, attention, and imagination. Importantly, these tools do not replace the teacher; instead, they support and enrich the teacher's work, fostering creativity and learner engagement.

Developing communication skills at an early age is a vital part of preschool education, as it shapes a child's social, emotional, and linguistic development. The following IT tools are particularly effective in this process:

1. Interactive Learning Apps – Platforms such as ABC Mouse, Lingokids, and Khan Academy Kids help children expand their vocabulary, improve pronunciation, and strengthen verbal communication.
2. Multimedia Resources – Audio stories, songs, and animated videos encourage children to listen, comprehend, and respond appropriately.
3. Virtual and Augmented Reality (VR/AR) – These technologies increase children's curiosity, focus, and participation in communication-based learning activities.

4. Digital Communication Platforms – Tools such as Zoom, Google Meet, or ClassDojo enable continuous interaction between teachers, parents, and children, fostering social and linguistic development.

**Table- 1. IT Tools Used to Develop Communication with Preschool Children**

| No | IT Tool / Application        | Main Function                   | Role in Communication Development                                               | Recommended Age |
|----|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1  | Lingokids                    | English learning platform       | Expands vocabulary, improves pronunciation through interactive speech exercises | 4–7 years       |
| 2  | Khan Academy Kids            | Educational games and stories   | Develops listening, comprehension, and response skills                          | 3–6 years       |
| 3  | ABC Mouse                    | Multimedia educational platform | Teaches pronunciation and verbal expression                                     | 4–6 years       |
| 4  | Toontastic 3D                | Animation creation app          | Helps children build stories, express ideas, and communicate creatively         | 5–7 years       |
| 5  | Google Meet / Zoom           | Online communication platforms  | Facilitates live interaction between teachers, parents, and children            | 5–7 years       |
| 6  | StoryJumper                  | Digital storytelling tool       | Fosters creative thinking and verbal expression                                 | 5–7 years       |
| 7  | Augmented Reality (AR) games | Interactive learning with AR    | Enhances naming, observation, and engagement in communication                   | 4–7 years       |

In addition to technical literacy, digital pedagogy emphasizes the formation of digital communication culture. Teachers must guide children to express their thoughts clearly, listen actively, and show respect during online and in-person interactions. Thus, digital platforms become not only educational tools but also a new environment for ethical and communicative education.

Effective use of IT tools in preschool education requires teachers to possess a high level of digital competence. Educators should be able to:

- select appropriate digital tools for pedagogical purposes;
- ensure a safe digital environment for children;
- supervise and guide children's online activity;
- apply digital resources to develop speech and communication skills.

Therefore, organizing professional development programs, workshops, and training sessions in digital pedagogy for preschool teachers is essential.

**Table-2. Advantages and Precautions of Using IT Tools in Preschool Education**

| ADVANTAGES:                                    | PRECAUTIONS:                                  |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| increases children's motivation to communicate | limit screen time according to age            |
| makes learning playful and engaging            | select age-appropriate and safe content       |
| allows personalized learning                   | balance digital and physical activities       |
| encourages self-expression and creativity      | ensure parental supervision and participation |

**Conclusion.** Digital pedagogy marks a new stage in developing communicative competence in preschool education. Through the use of IT tools, children learn not only through play but also by listening, speaking, and sharing ideas effectively. However, the success of this process depends on the wise and balanced use of technology, as well as the close collaboration between educators and parents.

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