

EFFECTIVE METHODS FOR DEVELOPING CREATIVE THINKING IN PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS

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Abstract: This article discusses effective methods for developing creative thinking in primary school pupils. In contemporary education, it is increasingly important for pupils not only to acquire established knowledge but also to think independently, adopt new approaches, find solutions to problems, and express their ideas freely. The article explores the potential of interactive teaching methods, educational games, group activities, creative tasks, and modern information technologies in primary education. It also examines the teacher’s role in developing pupils’ creative thinking skills and ways of making lessons engaging and effective. The appropriate and purposeful use of these methods can help increase pupils’ participation, develop their ability to think independently, and improve learning outcomes.

Keywords: primary education, creative thinking, creativity, interactive teaching methods, educational games, group work, modern technologies, independent thinking, educational effectiveness

INTRODUCTION

Today, education systems place considerable emphasis on developing pupils’ ability to think independently and creatively in addition to providing them with knowledge. Primary education is a particularly important stage in a child’s personal development, as this is when pupils’ worldviews, ways of thinking, interest in learning, and creative abilities begin to take shape.

Creative thinking is the ability to use existing knowledge to generate new ideas, find different solutions to problems, and express one’s thoughts independently. It is therefore important for primary school lessons to encourage pupils to explore, ask questions, think, and draw their own conclusions, rather than simply memorise information presented to them.

In contemporary education, interactive teaching methods, educational games, group tasks, and information and communication technologies can help increase pupils’ interest in lessons. Through these approaches, pupils learn to express their ideas freely, listen to others, and approach problems creatively.

MAIN DISCUSSION

The Importance of Creative Thinking in Primary School Pupils

Developing creative thinking in primary school pupils is an important educational objective. Creative thinking enables pupils to apply what they have learned to new situations, make independent decisions, and find original solutions to different problems. These skills are important for both children’s learning and their everyday lives.

During lessons, teachers should use questions and tasks that encourage exploration instead of providing ready-made answers. For example, questions such as “Why?”, “What would happen if...?”, and “What other solution could we find?” encourage pupils to think and express their own views.

Using Interactive Teaching Methods

Interactive teaching methods can contribute to the development of creative thinking. Methods such as brainstorming, clustering, fishbone diagrams, KWL charts (Know, Want to Know, Learned), and Venn diagrams encourage pupils to participate actively in lessons. These methods allow pupils

to express their ideas about a topic freely, listen to their classmates’ ideas, and reach shared conclusions.

For example, in mother-tongue lessons, pupils can be asked to create new sentences based on a given word or sentence. In mathematics lessons, they can solve a problem in several different ways, while in reading lessons, they can suggest alternative solutions to the problems faced by characters in a text. Such activities stimulate pupils’ imagination and develop their ability to think independently.

Using Educational Games

Educational games can be an effective way to make learning engaging for primary school pupils. Tasks presented through games can increase pupils’ interest in lessons and support their acquisition of knowledge.

Examples include games such as “Complete the Word”, “Find the Odd One Out”, “The Clever Thinkers’ Challenge”, and “Who Can Answer Quickly and Correctly?”. These games help pupils develop skills in reasoning, comparison, analysis, and drawing conclusions.

The Importance of Group Work

Group work helps primary school pupils collaborate and express their ideas freely. When working in groups, pupils learn to listen to one another, defend their viewpoints, share responsibilities, and reach a common conclusion. This process can develop their communication and independent thinking skills.

When organising group tasks, teachers should ensure that every pupil participates actively. For example, one group may be asked to develop new ideas on a given topic, another to find a solution to a problem, and a third to present its ideas through a presentation.

Using Modern Technologies

Modern information technologies offer a wide range of opportunities for developing pupils’ creative thinking in primary education. Digital presentations, interactive tasks, educational videos, and various digital tools help make lessons more engaging.

The main aim of using technology is to enable pupils to become active participants who explore independently and generate new ideas, rather than simply receiving information. Teachers should therefore select technologies purposefully and ensure that they are appropriate to the lesson content.

The Teacher’s Role

The teacher plays a central role in supporting the development of creative thinking in primary school pupils. Lessons should be structured so that every pupil can express ideas freely, ask questions without fear, and share new ideas.

To develop pupils’ creative abilities, teachers need to consider their age and individual characteristics. Rather than relying on a single type of task, teachers can support learning by using questions of varying difficulty, creative exercises, and problem-solving situations. Instead of immediately responding negatively to a pupil’s mistake, teachers should encourage the pupil to learn from it and seek another solution.

Teachers should also recognise and encourage pupils’ achievements, however small. A positive attitude and supportive feedback can build pupils’ confidence and encourage them to put forward new ideas. This helps create a classroom environment that supports independent thinking and creative exploration.

CONCLUSION

Developing creative thinking in primary school pupils is an important objective of contemporary education. Creative thinking can help pupils gain a deeper understanding of what they learn, make independent decisions, and adapt to different situations.

The interactive teaching methods, educational games, group activities, and modern technologies discussed in this article can increase pupils’ participation in lessons and help develop their independent and creative thinking skills. Applying these methods in ways that suit the lesson content and pupils’ age can improve educational effectiveness.

In conclusion, developing creative thinking in primary education requires teachers to encourage pupils to explore, think, and draw their own conclusions, rather than simply providing them with ready-made answers. The teacher’s creativity, teaching expertise, and appropriate use of modern methods are central to this process.

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