



THE ROLE OF DIDACTIC GAMES IN INTRODUCING PRESCHOOL CHILDREN TO THE WORLD OF PROFESSIONS

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Abstract

In the era of globalization, higher education institutions face the challenge of integrating global values while preserving national traditions in the upbringing of students. This article explores strategies for achieving a balance between these two elements in the context of higher education management. The study highlights the importance of curriculum design, cultural integration, policy development, and digital technologies in maintaining this balance. The article also discusses challenges and best practices adopted by various educational institutions worldwide. By implementing well-structured educational strategies, universities can prepare students to be global citizens while remaining rooted in their national identities.

KEYWORDS

Social development, profession, play activity, role-playing games, creative activities, exhibitions, professional knowledge.

INTRODUCTION

Preschool Education – the initial stage of child upbringing. Preschool education is the first stage of child upbringing, during which a child's physical, intellectual, moral, aesthetic, and social development takes place, laying the foundation for their future education. In preschool education, one of the most important and effective activities for children is playing games. Through games, children not only gain knowledge about various fields but also develop their social and emotional skills.

Choosing a profession is one of the most important and responsible processes in a person's life. Although preschool-aged children have not yet chosen a specific profession, their understanding of professions begins to form from an early age. During the preschool period, children should receive information about various professions, their duties, and their characteristics. This, in turn, helps foster their interest in professions and develop their social skills. Through games, children become acquainted with real-life professions and learn about them in a practical manner. Children show interest in the professions they observe in their daily lives. Preschool education institutions serve to provide children with knowledge about various professions, prepare them for social life, and help them choose their future path. Introducing children to the world of professions is not only a source of knowledge but also a means of developing their creative and practical activities. Play is the most effective educational activity for preschool-aged children. It serves as a fundamental tool for their cognitive, physical, and

emotional development. Through play, children express their inner world, find their place in society, and master various types of activities. Games, especially role-playing activities, play a crucial role in introducing children to the world of professions. By engaging in play, children acquire knowledge about different professions and develop new skills by performing various roles. In introducing children to the world of professions, games help them form an understanding of different occupations and apply this knowledge in practice. For example, in the game "Doctor," children learn about the medical profession and its importance in society, while in "Teacher," they develop an interest in the field of education. The most common type of games used to introduce preschoolers to professions are role-playing games. These allow children to act out various professions and gain an understanding of them. By playing roles such as "CEO," "Store Clerk," or "Train Driver," children apply their knowledge of these professions in practice. Additionally, games that enhance children's imagination, such as "Profession Cards" or "Guess the Profession," help reinforce their knowledge and explore a variety of careers. Lego and other construction games help children learn about professions such as engineering, architecture, and design. These games develop their logical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, and structural-building skills. Similarly, activities like gardening and planting introduce children to fields such as agronomy and biology, fostering their interest in nature and environmental care. Through these games, children explore the unique aspects of different professions and understand the responsibilities associated with them. Games are often supplemented with special activities and exhibitions. For example, organizing exhibitions about various professions and introducing children to professional tools and equipment increases their interest in different careers and helps them gain valuable knowledge. Through games, children develop an interest in professions. Games allow them to explore different occupations, helping them identify their interests and needs. During play, children gain experience in choosing a profession that suits them. The game process provides opportunities to acquire new knowledge, develop various skills, and test themselves in a social environment. From a psychological perspective, games help children understand their abilities, interests, and attitudes toward different social roles. Additionally, play activities foster qualities such as responsibility, teamwork, leadership, and creative thinking, all of which support them in making informed career choices in the future.

Choosing a profession is a long-term process, and it is important for children to develop an interest in their future careers from an early age. Through games, children can identify their strengths and understand which professions interest them the most. Combining games with exhibitions and special activities helps reinforce their knowledge about professions. For example, organizing profession-themed exhibitions and introducing children to various tools and unique aspects of different jobs further stimulates their curiosity. Such exhibitions and activities provide children with a deeper understanding of professions and allow them to observe them in practice.

Organizing profession-themed stories and fairy tales for preschool children helps increase their interest in various careers. This method allows children not only to gain knowledge about professions but also to better understand their details. Using profession-related books, pictures, videos, and interactive programs is another effective way to enhance learning through play. For example, children can develop an interest in different careers by reading books about professions and exploring illustrations that depict various jobs. Introducing preschoolers to

professionals and visiting their workplaces can also be highly beneficial. Taking children to places such as police stations, military units, hospitals, schools, stores, or craft workshops allows them to observe professions in real life, reinforcing their knowledge and understanding of different careers.

In preschool education institutions, teachers play a crucial role in organizing play activities for children. They should encourage children to learn about professions and engage in various role-playing activities. Educators can assign special tasks that promote career exploration through play and incorporate profession-related attributes, such as a stethoscope for doctors or a calculator for shopkeepers, to make the games more immersive. Parents also play an important role in guiding their children toward professions. Supporting play-based learning and actively participating in their children's play activities can further enhance their understanding and interest in different careers.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, guiding preschool children toward professions through play activities is a crucial pedagogical process that not only helps identify their interests but also prepares them for their future careers. Games provide children with the opportunity to explore different professions, acquire new knowledge, and develop essential skills. Teachers, educators, and parents should organize play activities effectively, ensuring that children build a strong foundation for making informed career choices in the future.

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