

IMPROVING THE METHODOLOGICAL COMPETENCE OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATORS

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Abstract. The quality of preschool education largely depends on the professional and methodological competence of educators. In modern educational systems, preschool teachers are expected not only to possess subject knowledge but also to apply effective teaching methods, innovative technologies, and child-centered approaches. This article explores the importance of improving the methodological competence of preschool educators, analyzes existing challenges, and proposes effective strategies for professional development. Special attention is paid to continuous training, reflective practice, and the integration of modern pedagogical technologies in preschool education.

Keywords: preschool education, methodological competence, professional development, educators, teaching methods.

Preschool education plays a crucial role in the overall development of children, as it lays the foundation for cognitive, social, emotional, and physical growth. The effectiveness of this stage largely depends on the competence of preschool educators. In recent years, educational reforms and global standards have emphasized the need to enhance the methodological capabilities of teachers to ensure high-quality early childhood education.

Methodological competence refers to the ability of educators to select, apply, and evaluate appropriate teaching methods and strategies in accordance with educational goals and children's developmental needs. Therefore, improving the methodological competence of preschool educators has become a priority in modern pedagogy.

Methodological competence is an integral component of professional competence. It includes knowledge of pedagogical methods, skills in lesson

planning, classroom management, assessment techniques, and the ability to adapt teaching strategies to diverse learners.

In preschool education, methodological competence also involves understanding child psychology, developmental stages, and play-based learning approaches. Educators must be able to create a supportive and stimulating learning environment that fosters creativity, independence, and social interaction among children.

Researchers emphasize that methodological competence is not static; it requires continuous improvement through professional learning and reflective practice.

Continuous professional development is one of the most effective ways to enhance methodological competence. Training courses, workshops, seminars, and online learning platforms help educators update their knowledge and acquire new skills.

Professional development programs should focus on modern pedagogical approaches, child-centered methods, and inclusive education practices. Reflective practice encourages educators to analyze their teaching experiences, identify strengths and weaknesses, and make necessary improvements. Through self-evaluation and peer collaboration, teachers can develop a deeper understanding of effective teaching methods.

The integration of innovative technologies, such as digital learning tools, interactive games, and multimedia resources, enhances the effectiveness of preschool education. Educators who are methodologically competent can effectively use these tools to support children's learning and development.

Providing methodological support through mentoring programs and professional learning communities helps educators exchange experiences and best practices. Collaboration among teachers promotes professional growth and confidence.

Educational institutions play a significant role in improving the methodological competence of preschool educators. Administrations should create favorable conditions for professional growth by providing access to resources, organizing training activities, and encouraging innovation.

Furthermore, cooperation between educational institutions and research organizations can contribute to the development of evidence-based teaching practices.

Improving the methodological competence of preschool educators is essential for ensuring high-quality early childhood education. By addressing existing challenges and implementing effective professional development strategies, educators can enhance their teaching practices and better meet the developmental needs of children.

Continuous learning, reflective practice, and institutional support are key factors in the successful development of methodological competence. As a result, preschool education can become more effective, innovative, and child-centered.

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