

THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN IN PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

Toshboyeva Go'zal Avazovna

Director of Preschool Education Organization No. 15,
Kizirik District, Surkhandarya Region

ABSTRACT	KEYWORDS
<p>This article highlights the importance of social-emotional development in preschool-aged children. It discusses methods for developing skills such as understanding and managing emotions, interacting with others, fostering empathy, and adapting to social norms. The article analyzes how this development impacts a child's future success.</p>	<p>Social-emotional development, Preschool education, Empathy, Emotional regulation, Social skills, Communication.</p>

Introduction

The preschool years are a vital stage in a child's personality formation, during which social-emotional development—not just cognitive growth—plays a decisive role [1]. Social-emotional development encompasses a child's ability to understand and manage their emotions, communicate effectively with others, demonstrate empathy, and adapt to social norms [2]. This article aims to analyze the significance of social-emotional development in preschool education and effective ways to encourage it.

Main Part

The social-emotional development of children serves as the foundation for their future academic success, personal relationships, and overall well-being [3]. This development covers the following key areas:

- 1. Self-awareness and Emotional Regulation:** Children must learn to recognize their feelings (joy, sadness, anger, etc.) and express them appropriately. Adults should help them articulate emotions with words and teach constructive ways to manage anger or disappointment [4].
- 2. Social Skills:** Cooperation with others, sharing, taking turns, solving problems peacefully, and building friendships are essential parts of social skills. Role-playing games, group projects, and team activities help develop these skills [5].
- 3. Empathy:** Understanding the feelings of others and showing compassion is the core of empathy. Concepts of empathy can be taught to children through fairy tales, stories, and real-life situations [6].

4. Relationship Management: Conflict resolution, reaching compromises, and constructive communication are vital in managing social relationships. Educators should teach children how to make the right decisions in conflict situations [7].

To support social-emotional development in preschool educational institutions, it is necessary to create a safe and stimulating environment, provide specialized training for educators, and strengthen cooperation with parents.

Conclusion

The social-emotional development of children is of fundamental importance for their emergence as well-rounded individuals. These skills increase a child's self-confidence, strengthen their resilience to stress, and help them participate successfully in social life. The preschool education system should prioritize the formation of these skills, and parents should actively participate in this process. Social-emotionally mature children achieve greater success not only in school but also in their later lives.

References

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