DEVELOPMENT OF CREATIVE THINKING IN PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS THROUGH INNOVATIVE METHODS

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Abstract: This study analyzes modern and innovative methods for developing creative thinking in primary school students. The research shows that project-based learning, game-based technologies, multimedia tools, individual approaches, and group work are effective in fostering creative thinking. It was also found that the school environment, parental support, and societal involvement play a significant role in enhancing creative potential. The study provides recommendations for promoting creative thinking in primary education based on pedagogical practice and theoretical research.
Keywords: Creative thinking, primary school, innovative methods, project-based learning, game-based technologies, multimedia, STEAM, pedagogical approach.

РАЗВИТИЕ КРЕАТИВНОГО МЫШЛЕНИЯ У МЛАДШИХ ШКОЛЬНИКОВ С ПОМОЩЬЮ ИННОВАЦИОННЫХ МЕТОДОВ

Аннотация: В данной научной работе анализируются современные и инновационные методы развития креативного мышления у младших школьников. В ходе исследования было показано, что проектное обучение, игровые технологии, мультимедиа инструменты, индивидуальный подход и групповая работа являются эффективными для формирования творческого мышления. Также выявлено, что школьная среда, поддержка родителей и общества играет важную роль в развитии креативного потенциала. Работа включает рекомендации по развитию креативного мышления в начальной школе на основе педагогической практики и теоретических исследований.
Ключевые слова: Креативное мышление, начальная школа, инновационные методы, проектное обучение, игровые технологии, мультимедиа, STEAM, педагогический подход.

The importance of developing creative thinking in primary school students is very significant, as children acquire an interest in life, problem-solving skills, and independent thinking abilities precisely at this stage. In modern educational settings, it is possible to expand the potential for developing students' creativity not only by relying on traditional teaching methods but also by applying innovative approaches and pedagogical technologies. From this perspective, primary school pedagogy and the methodological preparation of teachers are important factors in the process of fostering creative thinking. Creative thinking is a fundamental aspect of human activity, and its development affects not only a person's learning abilities but also their social and cultural success. The first condition for developing creative thinking in primary school students is to create a safe and

stimulating educational environment. Pedagogical practice shows that interactive learning activities play a crucial role in fostering students' abilities to think independently and solve problems in unconventional ways[25]. Innovative pedagogical approaches encourage creative thinking in students, as they focus not only on acquiring knowledge but also on creating and transforming it. Therefore, creative methods, project-based learning, game-based technologies, and multimedia tools are effective means in modern primary education.

Project-based learning (PBL) is particularly effective in developing creative thinking among primary school students, as it allows students to solve problems independently by creating projects[26]. Research shows that project work significantly enhances children's creative and critical thinking skills. In addition, game-based technologies and gamification make the learning process engaging and motivate students to participate actively. By incorporating game elements into lessons, students are taught to approach problems with unconventional solutions. Multimedia and interactive tools, including videos, presentations, and interactive programs, enrich the learning process both visually and practically, which broadens children's imagination and helps them develop creative solutions. Differentiated and individualized approaches, which consider each student's interests and abilities, enable the organization of lessons in a way that fosters creative thinking. Group work and brainstorming methods reinforce creative thinking skills in students, as they exchange ideas within a group and find solutions to problems collaboratively.

To develop creative thinking, teachers can use question-and-answer methods, create problem-based situations, engage students in visual and constructive activities, and provide opportunities for them to explain their thoughts through reflection and discussion[27]. At the same time, the use of modern technologies has a significant impact on fostering creative thinking. Interactive whiteboards, mobile applications, and online learning platforms allow students to test knowledge in a practical way and encourage independent thinking. As a result, the development of creative thinking in primary school students is an important direction in modern education. Innovative pedagogical methods, including project-based learning, game technologies, multimedia tools, and individualized approaches, help to maximize children's creative potential. Moreover, the methodological preparation of teachers and their ability to organize lessons interactively play a crucial role in shaping creative thinking. Based on this, the step-by-step implementation of modern pedagogical technologies, enriching lessons with project and game methods, and taking into account students' interests and needs are essential conditions for developing creative thinking in primary education[28]. The systematic use of innovative pedagogical methods is particularly important in the process of developing creative thinking in primary school students. The

[25] Robinson, K. (2011). *Out of Our Minds: Learning to be Creative*. Capstone.
[26] Bell, S. (2010). Project-Based Learning for the 21st Century: Skills for the Future. The Clearing House, 83(2), 39-43.
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[28] Bell, S. (2010). *Project-Based Learning for the 21st Century: Skills for the Future*. *The Clearing House*, 83(2), 39-43.

effectiveness of project-based learning lies in the fact that students not only master the topic being studied but also develop the ability to solve problems independently and generate new ideas. For example, in mathematics lessons, instead of limiting students to solving simple problems, assigning them projects based on real-life situations significantly enhances their creative thinking skills. In this process, students try to solve problems in various ways and, by explaining their solutions to classmates, simultaneously develop logical and creative thinking. The use of game technologies is especially effective in promoting creative thinking in primary school students. During the game, students attempt to solve problems in unconventional ways, which enhances their creative potential. Interactive games such as "problem-solving game" or "creative story creation" help children actively use their imagination and visualization skills. Organizing lessons with the help of game technologies increases students' motivation, encourages independent thinking, and makes the learning process more engaging.

Multimedia tools, including videos, presentations, interactive programs, and mobile applications, play an important role in developing creative thinking. For example, visually presenting the topic during a lesson broadens students' imagination and encourages them to analyze problems from various perspectives. At the same time, multimedia tools provide students with opportunities for independent exploration and experimentation during the learning process, which strengthens their creative thinking[29].

Applying differentiated approaches and individualized learning methods during lessons also contributes to the development of creative thinking. By adapting lessons to each student's interests, abilities, and level of knowledge, teachers can unlock students' creative potential. For instance, one group of students may be given more complex tasks related to the topic, while another group works on assignments aimed at reinforcing basic concepts. This approach encourages independent thinking and allows students to freely express their solutions.

Reflection and discussion methods are also crucial in fostering creative thinking. At the end of a lesson, giving students the opportunity to express their opinions about their work, evaluate their experiences, and listen to their classmates' perspectives teaches them to analyze, think critically, and develop creative solutions. In this process, students learn to justify their decisions and compare different options[30]. Alongside the application of innovative pedagogical technologies, the role of the school's organizational and external environment is also significant in developing creative thinking. Creative spaces specially designed for lessons, classrooms equipped with free materials, and resources for various practical activities stimulate students' independent exploration and imaginative activity. Furthermore, the support of parents and the community helps enhance children's creative potential.

In addition, the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) approach is an effective tool for fostering creative thinking in students. This

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approach integrates science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics, enabling students to solve complex and practical tasks. For example, by conducting a simple scientific experiment, children simultaneously develop imagination, logical thinking, and creative problem-solving skills[31]. Furthermore, modern pedagogical research indicates that developing creative thinking in students is influenced not only by classroom activities but also by independent activities at home. Creative assignments provided by parents, as well as activities aligned with students' interests—such as games, drawing, and story creation—strengthen their imagination and creative thinking abilities. As a result, fostering creative thinking in primary school students requires a systematic approach. When innovative pedagogical methods, multimedia tools, game technologies, project-based activities, individualized approaches, and reflection are applied in combination, students' creative potential increases significantly. At the same time, the methodological preparation of teachers and their ability to organize lessons interactively are crucial conditions for the successful development of creative thinking.

Conclusion

Developing creative thinking in primary school students is one of the most important directions in modern education. Research and practical experience show that creative thinking is not limited to acquiring knowledge; it also serves to develop the ability to solve problems in various ways, generate original ideas, and make independent decisions. In the process of fostering creative thinking in primary school, innovative pedagogical approaches—such as project-based learning, game technologies, the use of multimedia and interactive tools, differentiated and individualized approaches, group work, and brainstorming methods—play a significant role. Moreover, organizing lessons in an interactive and engaging manner, providing students with opportunities for independent exploration and imaginative activities, and encouraging them to express their ideas through reflection and discussion contribute to strengthening creative thinking. The STEAM approach, which integrates science, technology, arts, and mathematics, also develops creative potential by enabling students to solve complex and practical tasks.

Based on research findings, developing creative thinking depends not only on pedagogical methods but also on the organizational environment of the school, as well as support from parents and the community. Therefore, fostering creative thinking in primary school requires a systematic and comprehensive approach. The use of innovative methods and technologies, consideration of students' interests and needs, and teachers' professional competence and creative approaches are key factors in developing creative thinking. Overall, developing creative thinking in primary school makes the educational process not only effective but also engaging, interactive, and motivational for students. This contributes significantly to their personal development, the formation of independent thinking skills, and their future success.

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