

THE ROLE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGIES IN TEACHING ENGLISH IN PRESCHOOL EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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ANNOTATION

New technologies offer different programs through which children can acquire knowledge of the English language in a motivating and fun way as they play, by learning either individually or in groups. As new technologies we find educational robotics, the interactive digital whiteboard and the computer, each of them with their respective programs or softwares. This article describes the role of modern information technologies in education and social sphere today, as well as information about the use of modern technologies in teaching English in preschool educational institutions and their improvement in the effectiveness of training.

Keywords: ICT, technologies, methodology, kindergarten, content -free, psychosocial development, Computers, mp3 players, DVDs, radio stations, television channels, Educational Digitalization, "Years of Ascension", Educational applications, preschool program.

The aim of any 21st-century education system should be to prepare students on how to deal with life challenges in a very fast moving world. Therefore, it has to adapt to the constantly changing conditions as it cannot function in isolation from reality and ultimately, without modern technology.

Information and Communications Technology, also known as ICT, has changed the way people communicate with each other, acquire information, spend their free time, and obtain knowledge. Computers, mp3 players, DVDs, radio stations, television channels and, of course, the Internet are used to send or convey various types of information that contains written texts, graphics, sound or video images which can greatly help students learning at every level of education. The use of such devices and technologies in schools is, indeed, influencing the changes happening in teaching methodologies. When skillfully utilized, ICT allows us to change the current concepts of conducting school activities, and thus, to greatly enhance their quality. In today's world, it is an inevitable process. One of the best approaches for integrating technology in the kindergarten classroom is when early childhood teachers effectively plan to ensure that ICT is viewed by children as a tool to support



and enhance teaching and learning in early childhood education learning activities. Integrating technology in the kindergarten classroom involves the use of computers and other ICT tools and resources. Each one of these should enable children to have full control over and develop their ICT capability.

ICT capability can be developed in early childhood learning activities if technology in kindergarten classrooms meets the following requirements.

- Give children full control.
- Promote a higher level of decision-making on behalf of the children.
- Intellectually challenges them and;
- Content-free.

The development of modern technology has brought about great changes in education, evidenced by the changes in the teaching environment, teaching content, learning form, etc. Many studies have shown that modern technology can improve the outcomes of education. Due to this, governments from all over the world have attached much importance to the integration of modern technology into education. For instance, the U.S. Department of Education issued “National Education Technology Plan 2010 (NETP2010)”, aiming to apply the advanced technologies used in our daily personal and professional lives to our entire education system to improve students’ learning; the UK launched the “Harnessing Technology Strategy and the Next Generation Learning Campaign” to raise people’s awareness of the benefit of the use of technology in education; China also has issued the “Ten-Year Plan of Educational Digitalization (2011-2020)” in order to enhance the integration of technology into education. Under the current educational policy, many educational technologies have been introduced into classrooms and teachers are encouraged to integrate technology in teaching to achieve the improvement of their students’ academic performance and technological literacy. This paper aims to suggest using modern technology to improve English education. The coming of modern technology and the studies that proved the benefits of modern technology bringing to education suggest us using modern technology in English education to achieve a more effective way of English teaching and learning. This paper highlights the theoretical aspects of integrating technology into English education and the advantages of using modern technology in English teaching and learning. In addition, suggestions for the effective use of modern technology in education are also presented.

Learning represents a complex process through which knowledge, skills and habits are acquired, and which is directed by education, and which begins immediately



after birth and lasts during the lifetime. Young children begin to learn in the sensory motor and emotional, and later in speech and cognitive areas. "The basic role of learning in preschool childhood must not be the memorization of isolated facts, but learning should be strategic (structural). It should create a rich and flexible model of reality for the child, to form general ideas about the world, nature, society and human. The aforementioned knowledge led to the creation of a different attitude towards the early development of children. Today, there is an awareness that early learning and experience are of great importance for further development and that they depend to a significant extent on the quality of the social and cultural environment in which children live. This emphasizes that waiting to start school in order to provide children with quality programs for development means precisely missing important opportunities in preschool age. The "Years of Ascension" program promotes learning through play and exploration, which means that children are given the opportunity to take initiative and choose what and how to learn. The teacher is the one who will implement the game so that it is in the zone of the child's future development and as such becomes the basis of the development of the potential and the manifestation of all dimensions of the child's well-being. The activity of preschool institutions is defined as multifunctional, that is, it consists of three basic functions: social, educational and preventive-health. All three functions are realized simultaneously and interpenetrate, so they should be viewed in unity, mutual connection and conditionality. Unlike other educational institutions, only preschool institutions support and encourage the overall psychophysical and psychosocial development of young children. In order to ensure the quality of the preschool program, it is necessary to create a stimulating environment in which children will have the opportunity to explore different topics, learn from different fields. All of this should be realized with a constant review of whether and to what extent it is important, interesting for children and whether it captures their attention. Children are curious by nature, they like to explore and get to know the world around them. Parents and educators should encourage and support children in this activity and thus help them make progress in all areas of knowledge. Children learn spontaneously, while exploring, and this especially applies to children up to three years old. They learn by example, following the example of their parents. They learn by copying, how to behave, what is good and what is not, first words, colors, numbers, concepts, animals, objects... Children develop their skills, knowledge and emotions through play and exploration, get to know the world around them, improve their communication skills.



The advantages of using computers in English language learning (CALL) are indisputable. This way of learning a foreign language with the use of computers and multimedia (CD/DVD) has been around for a little over 25 years . However, the use of only computer programs for these purposes falls into the background with the advent of the Internet and ICT. With the development of ICT and the definition has changed, CALL is now an international discipline exploiting the application of digital technology in language education . New technologies provide almost unlimited possibilities, especially if the teacher is committed to his pedagogical work, and at the same time has appropriate professional and digital competences. If ICT is used in the room/classroom, the teacher's work usually takes place in a traditional way, with partial use of technology. When computers, the Internet, various teaching materials in electronic form are used in educational work, then we are already in the field of electronic learning. Many resources, such as activity scripts, teaching materials and content, can be found on the Internet, which are publicly available and can be used to modernize work with children. In doing so, they can be used in their original form or modified and modified. Even that today's society is characterized by an accelerated pace of technical and technological development, it can be said that the "old" classical way of learning is incompatible with the time in which we live. In this sense, it is necessary for learning supported by modern technology in the Internet era to find its rightful place in the educational system. Modern society is driven by information technology, so the computer is becoming a teaching tool that cannot be done without. Information technology, through the interaction of lecturers and students, but also between students, and through the exchange of information, guide learning and provide an incentive for constant deepening of knowledge in the learning process . From the aspect of education, the Internet as a global knowledge base has great educational potential. Electronic learning has been applied in practice for more than ten years, as learning using modern information and communication technology. E-learning has foundations in both psychology and pedagogy, so it is possible to determine the purpose, outcome and goal of learning itself. The main meaning of e-learning is the achievement of educational goals, while respecting individual interests and needs. E-learning can be defined as: "educational interactive communication between lecturers and students, which is realized using modern information and communication technology" . It should be emphasized here that e-learning does not challenge standard learning methods, but seeks to enrich and supplement them. In order to master a foreign language, experts



believe that it is necessary to master four language skills, namely: speaking and writing as active skills, and then listening and reading as passive skills. The standard teaching of a foreign language, when it comes to learning to speak, meant that the lecturer would determine the topic, while the students would conduct some form of communication. This kind of communication is far from spontaneous, so it often happens that students have difficulties, especially if they are not motivated or if it is about a topic that is not interesting to them. For this reason, the Internet is emerging as a rich and easily accessible source of material for learning a foreign language .

Preschool age is the age when children are particularly active and eager for new knowledge, they need to understand the world around them and are naturally curious, so this is a period that should be used to build a positive attitude towards learning a foreign language. When it comes to learning English, it is most important for young children to learn the basics of the language through play and content adapted to them, on which they will later build their learning. The basic value of kindergartens can be seen through providing the child with the opportunity to actively participate in the educational group as a community of children, in conditions that are adapted to him, his capabilities and developmental needs. Given that young children first learn through play, and interesting content tailored to them, learning English using ICT offers great opportunities. The CALL environment provides a variety of materials to motivate children to read, such as auditory and/or visual materials, animated materials, music and sound effects and other materials. These tools help increase visual attractiveness, flexibility, responsiveness and supports . "Playing computer games, as part of learning, motivates students to practice and learn new vocabulary and often challenges teachers to create innovative ways of learning a foreign language, especially in a foreign language context." It also challenges them to connect playing computer games with the curriculum for foreign language learners. If you were to ask whether students should play computer games or learn, in this case the answer would be that students should play computer games to learn." In addition, ICT can play a role „on stimulating pre-reading skills. Using pictures and sounds, the emerging reader is introduced to the concept that there is more to words than their meaning. The children's vocabulary is expanded by means of exercises using pictures and high quality digitized voice“. Some of the basic applications from the Microsoft Office suite can be used when working with children in kindergarten: Paint and PowerPoint. Web 2.0 tools are also widely used in EFL learning because of their interactivity and two-way communication. The most popular of them, which are used for the purpose of learning English at an early age, are certainly blogs and



YouTube. Educators can create blogs and enter adequate content in them or use other users' blogs. Children can learn letters, words, reading, practice pronunciation, learn songs and so unconsciously enrich their vocabulary by watching video materials posted on YouTube. In addition to them, there is educational software, i.e. educational applications, intended for learning EFL through play, which can be divided into three categories:

- Educational applications for the computer
- Educational applications for mobile devices
- Educational applications on the Internet (online applications)

Educational applications are software designed to be run and used on personal computers (desktop or laptop). These applications are available on the Internet, are installed on the computer and can be used. There are a number of free applications that can be used to learn English in kindergarten: GCompris is a set of educational software for children aged two to ten. GCompris (Fig. 1) has been translated into several languages and is free to use. The current version of the GCompris software package is divided into seven educational units, and each unit has its own categories and subcategories that represent various activities and educational games.

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