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BENEFITS TEACHING METHODS FOREIGN LANGUAGES FOR YOUNG LEARNERS

Annotation. It is clear that second language study offers many advantages for children in terms of improved communicative ability, cognitive development, and cultural awareness. It's never too soon to start your child on the path of second language acquisition, so start today. There are various other benefits to learning a foreign language abroad: You will develop a greater awareness and deeper understanding of other cultures and a more positive interaction with people from other nations. You can explore career opportunities involving a foreign language. The world of language learning for young learners is a captivating landscape brimming with opportunities for growth and development. Beyond acquiring linguistic skills, effective teaching methods can unlock a myriad of benefits, nurturing cognitive, social, and emotional well-being in children. This article explores the profound advantages of adopting engaging and developmentally appropriate teaching methods for young language learners, demonstrating how these approaches lay a solid foundation for lifelong success.

Key words: linguistic skills, teaching methods, communicative ability, cognitive development, cultural awareness, young learners, grammatical rules.

Introduction. Traditional language teaching often focuses on rote memorization and grammatical rules, which can be dry and uninspiring for young minds. Effective methods, however, prioritize engagement, playfulness, and real-world connections, transforming language learning into an exciting journey of discovery. Language is an inseparable part of human life, because by language a person can convey intentions and goals to others. In other words, language is a communication tool used by humans in their efforts to interact with each other. Language functions as a communication tool and is an important tool in children's lives [1]. Through language, children can be interconnected, share experiences, and can improve intellectually, namely in the context of developing their language knowledge and skills. The first reason is pragmatic demands. It is inevitable that at present the geographical barrier between regions or even between countries has begun to collapse, falling one by one due to globalization. The development of communication and information technology seems to be one of the factors responsible for the increasingly open relations between people in this global era [2].

1. Igniting Curiosity and Passion: Engaging methods spark children's innate curiosity, making language learning a fun and rewarding experience. They move beyond the textbook, incorporating activities like storytelling, games, songs, and dramatic play, igniting a passion for language that extends beyond the classroom.

2. Developing Cognitive Skills: Interactive learning activities stimulate various cognitive processes, enhancing critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity. Through games that require strategic thinking, children develop the ability to analyze, deduce, and apply language in meaningful ways.

3. Boosting Memory and Retention: Playful activities like songs, rhymes, and movement games leverage repetition and sensory experiences, leading to enhanced memory retention. These methods create a lasting impact on language acquisition, solidifying vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation.

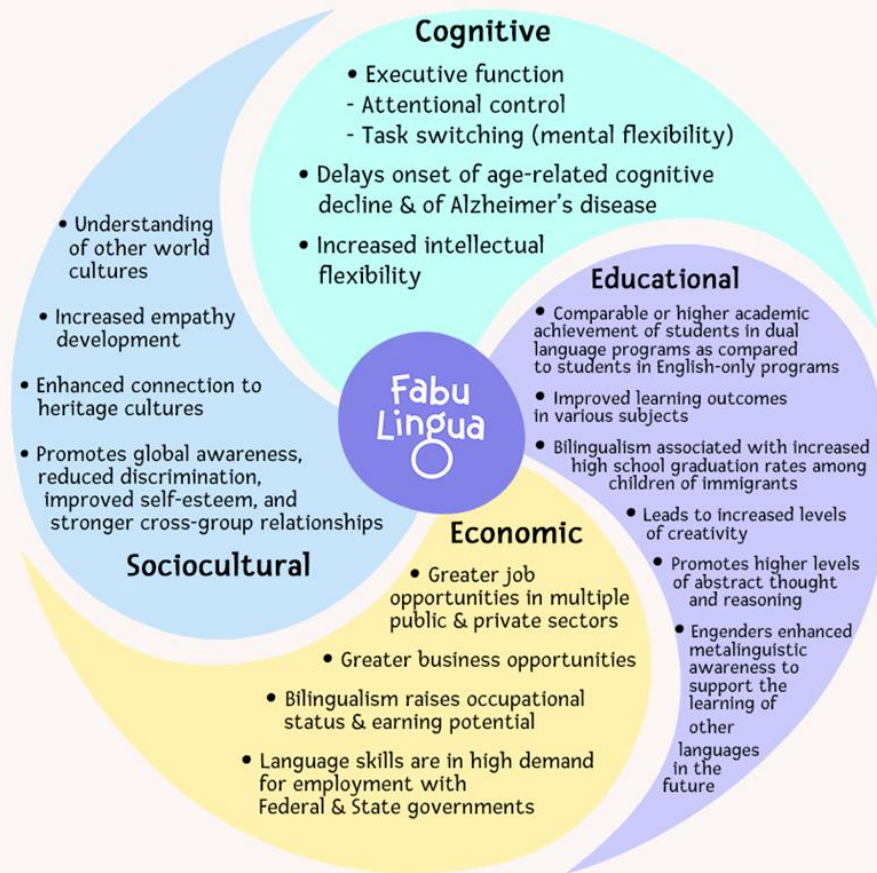
4. Strengthening Communication and Collaboration: Group activities and collaborative projects encourage children to communicate effectively in the target language, fostering teamwork and social skills. They learn to listen actively, share ideas, and work together towards a common goal, developing valuable communication skills that translate beyond the classroom.

5. Building Confidence and Self-Esteem: Creating a supportive and positive learning environment where mistakes are seen as learning opportunities empowers children to embrace challenges and take risks. This confidence extends to other areas of their lives, fostering self-assurance and a positive self-image [3, 4].

In addition to the positive aspects of learning foreign languages in children, there are some challenges that seem to need to be watched out for. First is the problem of sustainability, especially at the time of

transfer of education, from the playgroup or kindergarten to elementary school, from elementary school to junior high school. This aspect of sustainability can be related to learning material as well as to the impact of using the material presentation strategy. The mapping of learning materials seems to be done carefully so that unnecessary repetitions can be avoided.

Benefits of Multilingualism



Likewise, the appropriate strategy balance for the presentation of material needs to be taken into account at different levels. Not fulfilling these conditions has the potential to reduce students' interest and motivation to learn at the next level. Another challenge is that the curriculum content will increase which means that the learning burden of students will increase as well as the teaching load of teachers, especially for classroom teachers [5].

A Deeper Dive into Effective Teaching Methods:

1. Total Physical Response (TPR): This method leverages physical actions to convey language concepts, making learning kinesthetic and engaging for young learners. Children respond to commands, follow instructions, and enact scenarios, connecting language to movement and creating a memorable learning experience.

2. Storytelling and Dramatic Play: Engaging children in storytelling and role-playing fosters imagination and creativity while providing opportunities to practice language in context. They can create their own stories, act out dialogues, and express themselves creatively in the target language.

3. Games and Activities: Interactive games and activities provide a fun and stimulating environment for language practice. From board games to card games to online interactive platforms, children can learn vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation through playful competition and collaboration.

4. Songs and Rhymes: Music and rhyme are powerful tools for language acquisition, engaging auditory senses and promoting memorization. Children can sing along to songs, learn rhymes, and participate in musical activities, making language learning enjoyable and memorable.

5. Visual Aids and Realia: Using visuals, such as pictures, flashcards, posters, and real-world objects (realia), makes language learning more concrete and relatable. Children can connect words to images and experiences, enhancing comprehension and vocabulary development.

The Long-Term Benefits: Shaping Future Success

The positive effects of engaging teaching methods extend far beyond the classroom. Children who learn languages through these methods are equipped with a strong foundation that benefits their academic, social, and personal development throughout their lives [6].

Improved Academic Performance: Language learning strengthens cognitive skills, enhancing problem-solving, critical thinking, and memory, which translate to better academic performance in various subjects.

Enhanced Literacy Skills: Early language exposure and active learning activities contribute to stronger reading, writing, and communication skills. Children develop a deeper understanding of language structure, vocabulary, and grammar, leading to improved literacy abilities.

Increased Cognitive Flexibility: Learning multiple languages enhances cognitive flexibility, enabling children to adapt to new situations, solve problems creatively, and think outside the box.

Cultural Understanding and Empathy: Language learning exposes children to diverse cultures, promoting empathy and appreciation for different perspectives. They develop a broader understanding of the world and its people, fostering tolerance and inclusivity [7].

Improved Communication Skills: Children develop strong communication skills, becoming confident speakers, listeners, and communicators. They are better able to express themselves effectively, build relationships, and navigate social interactions.

Increased Confidence and Self-Esteem: Positive language learning experiences build confidence and self-esteem, empowering children to embrace new challenges and pursue their passions.

The Future is Multilingual: Building a World of Opportunity

In today's globalized world, fluency in multiple languages opens doors to countless opportunities. Children who learn languages early gain a significant advantage, equipping them with skills that are highly valued in the workplace and beyond.

Enhanced Employment Opportunities: Multilingualism is highly sought after by employers in various industries, including business, technology, healthcare, and education. Children with language skills gain a competitive edge in the job market.

Global Communication and Collaboration: In a world where borders are increasingly blurred, multilingual professionals can communicate effectively with colleagues, clients, and partners across cultures, fostering global collaboration and understanding [8].

Increased Travel and Cultural Experiences: Language fluency opens doors to travel, exploration, and cultural experiences, enriching lives and broadening perspectives. Experts say that children who learn a language before their teenage years are more likely than older learners to achieve native-like pronunciation. Furthermore, research has found that kids have an innate ability to acquire the rules of any language - an ability that disappears by adulthood. This encourages them to think from a new point of view, improving cultural sensitivity. At a crucial time in their development, exposing children to new ways of seeing the world and appreciating where others come from can be character-defining [9].

Language skills also enable children to interact with others and develop social abilities. Given the predictive value of early language skills for academic attainment and their connection to social interaction, they have been suggested to be an indicator of well-being as well. Learning a second language has numerous benefits, such as improving cognitive abilities, enhancing communication skills, broadening career opportunities, facilitating travel and cultural exchange, and even delaying the onset of age-related mental decline.

Conclusion. Effective teaching methods for young language learners are not simply about acquiring linguistic skills; they are about unlocking a wealth of benefits that shape a child's future. By fostering engagement, playfulness, and real-world connections, these methods ignite a passion for language, enhance cognitive development, promote social and personal growth, and equip children with the skills they need to thrive in a globalized world. The future is multilingual, and by empowering children with the gift of language, we are paving the way for a brighter, more interconnected future for all.

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