

The Importance of Folklore in Developing Speech Skills in Young Children (Based on The Example of Fairy Tales)

Gafforjon Ruzmatovich Rakhmonov

Associate Professor at Kokand University, PhD in Philology, Uzbekistan

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Abstract: This article provides a methodological approach to the importance of fairy tales in developing speech skills in young children. It also highlights the significance of using modern pedagogical technologies to enrich children's vocabulary, enhance their speech, develop their thinking, and nurture their spirituality through fairy tales.

Keywords: Fairy tale, speech skills, logical thinking, creative ability, communicative aspects, traditional folklore, proper language use, cultural heritage, national values.

Introduction: Our wise people did not say in vain, "Fairy tales lead to goodness." Fairy tales play a crucial role in instilling noble qualities in children's minds and hearts, enriching their spiritual world. Through fairy tales, children's memory, attention, and thinking develop. Listening to fairy tales is one of the key factors in the development of language and speech. Certain speech deficiencies in children can be corrected by listening to stories and fairy tales, memorizing poems, practicing correct pronunciation, and performing various exercises. Fairy tales should be used to cultivate virtuous traits in children, promote humanistic values, foster friendly relationships, and teach independent thinking. For example, in the fairy tale "The Fox's Share," the cunning and sly nature of the fox is depicted. The fairy tale "The Three Brave Brothers" begins with a father's advice, where moral and ethical values such as humanity, wisdom, and courage are exemplified.

After reading a fairy tale, the educator should encourage children to draw general conclusions. Questions like "What would you have done in their place?" stimulate discussion and increase children's engagement. Each fairy tale carries its own message. "The Magic Turnip" encourages children to think logically and understand the idea of "Unity is strength," while in "Zumrad and Qimmat," Zumrad's diligence is praised, and Qimmat is portrayed as lazy and

unmotivated. Through fairy tales, children learn to extract lessons from stories. Additionally, skillfully narrating fairy tales allows educators to establish emotional connections with children, subtly impart moral lessons, and expand their knowledge about the world.

Working with proverbs from fairy tales helps convey the underlying ideas to children, improve their expressive speech, and enhance communication skills. For example, in the fairy tale "The Honest Boy" (1st grade), the boy's honesty earns the king's approval. The moral of the story is expressed through the proverb: "Speak the truth, even if it brings you harm." If students understand the meaning of this proverb, they can create and narrate similar fairy tales themselves [6].

After reading and discussing a fairy tale, children can be asked about the meanings of words like sharbat (kindness), xayrli ish (good deed), xivchin (greed), and muhayyo (prepared). Their answers can be expanded and summarized. Analyzing the artistic devices used in fairy tales—such as personification, metaphor, and hyperbole—is also important [7]. Considering all the above, fairy tale lessons can be structured as follows:

1. Introducing the fairy tale: Preparing children to perceive it.
2. The teacher's expressive reading or recitation.

3. A brief discussion to assess comprehension.
4. Dividing the fairy tale into parts for analysis, identifying figurative language and synonyms, and explaining difficult words.
5. Preparing for retelling (silent reading).

Preschool children enjoy entertainment and play, as these are natural tools for learning. Educators, while interacting with children, teach them the nuances of their mother tongue. Through words, children communicate, expand their thinking, and develop fluent and precise speech. Young children eagerly learn words, phrases, and sentences and remember them easily. At this age, memory is still forming, and such activities lay the foundation for their cognitive growth. When teaching words to young children, educators should use games. Play helps children expand their vocabulary. However, not all children fully grasp the meanings of words, so parents and educators must explain them. Interesting fairy tales and stories positively influence children, teaching them to distinguish between good and bad. Memorizing short poems and songs helps develop clear and fluent speech. Educators can instill love for nature by teaching small poems about trees, birds, and other elements of nature, explaining their meanings. Young children enjoy hearing the same fairy tale repeatedly. Therefore, reading it multiple times is beneficial. The educator should ask, "Did you like the fairy tale? Did you understand it? Should I read it again?" Children may have a superficial understanding at first, so deepening their comprehension through discussion is essential. Visual aids enhance perception, helping children imagine characters' appearances and behaviors. Asking children to draw scenes from fairy tales is also useful. While drawing, they may seek additional information, leading to deeper engagement with the tale.

When older children listen to fairy tales, their understanding of the world expands, and their imaginative thinking develops. Gradually, they begin to participate—first by looking at pictures, then imitating characters' voices, naming them, completing familiar sentences, and eventually retelling the story. Later, they learn to compare fairy tales, describe characters, and notice thematic variations. A distinctive feature of fairy tales is the contrast between positive and negative characters. A strong and brave protagonist beautifies the world around them.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, speech development activities, especially those involving fairy tales and storytelling, are highly important. In preschool education, using modern pedagogical technologies to convey fairy tales

helps enrich children's vocabulary, improve their speech, and develop their thinking and spirituality. Teaching children not only to read but also to retell fairy tales is crucial. Storytelling enhances oral speech and enriches children's language with new words and expressions.

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