

## EFFECTIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING STRATEGIES

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### ABSTRACT

*Early childhood is the stage as occurring from birth to eight years. In this stage child goes rapid growth and development. Early childhood age focuses on children learning through play which include toddlerhood and sometime afterwards. During these stage social skills, self-esteem and moral outlook are established. This is the age of foundation of social behaviour. Children in the early childhood stage become skilled in modifying and expressing their emotions to fit different social situations. Teaching strategies are helpful for learning at early childhood stage and this will give excellent jumping off point to branch out and explore as educators because teaching young children is such a highly specialized field, some school require a degree in early childhood education. Various strategies are determined which can used to develop cognitive and social behavior in early childhood care. To promote children competencies, characteristics and identifying other skills programme which contribute to effectiveness of early childhood care. This paper focuses on the various learning strategies which contribute in effective childhood care and education programme that are beneficial for child development effectively.*

**Keywords:** *Early childhood, Learning strategies, Cognitive and social skills.*

### INTRODUCTION

Early childhood is the stage beginning from from birth to eight years. Early childhood age focus on children learning through play which include toddlerhood and sometime afterwards. It is also called play age. During this stage social skills, self-esteem and moral outlook are established. Children become more confident, self-sufficient and independent. *This is the age of foundation of social behaviour.* The term early childhood learning, “early care and early education” are comparable with the early childhood education. In this stage child goes rapid growth and development. It is an important and fundamental stage of learning. In this stage children have

close connection with society. For developing social skills, self-esteem and moral outlook among children helps in development of cognitive skills. Further early childhood education helps the children in encouragement for the healthy development and even parents increasingly recognized their growth. So the early childhood stage is most developmental and fundamental stage of learning. There are different strategies of learning to support children social, emotional development in early childhood care progress. Teaching strategies are helpful for learning in early childhood stage and this will give excellent jumping off point to branch out and explore as educators because teaching young children is such a highly specialized field, some school require a degree in early childhood education. For development of all children, there is a need to develop a planned curriculum framework, which encompasses appropriate knowledge and skills, and diverse needs of young children. The purpose of this framework is to develop quality and excellence in early childhood education and care by giving guidelines for practices which promote optimum learning and development of all young children. Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) makes a positive contribution to young children for long term development and learning by providing the stimulating environment in these foundation stages of lifelong learning. So it is important to provide a framework for planning for each sub-stage within the early childhood continuum up to the age of eight years. A good learning programme at the early childhood stage helps to ensure appropriate opportunities for holistic development and learning particularly in sensitive period of young children. Various strategies are identifying which can used to develop cognitive and social behaviour in early childhood care. To promote children competencies, characteristics and identify other skills programme which contribute to effectiveness of early childhood care. This paper focuses on the various learning strategies which contribute in effective childhood care and education programme and that are beneficial for child development effectively.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- To develop basic skills for personal adjustment.
- To promote good and healthy habits among children.
- To develop enthusiasm for learning among children.
- To develop positive relationship among teacher and pupil.

- To develop knowledge, skills and attitude among young children.
- To explore the imagination in dance, play music and art.
- To develop understanding of security.
- To explore new ways of organization.
- To facilitate optimum development and full potential for all round development and lifelong learning.
- To develop problem solving ability among children.
- To develop the importance for personal hygiene.
- To develop integration among students with society as a whole.
- Promote development and integration of senses.
- Develop effective communication and expressive language among children.
- Imbibe sense of aesthetic appreciation.
- Imbibe human values and love for fellow human being.

#### **LEARNING STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE COGNITIVE SKILLS AMONG EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMME**

- **By developing vocabulary skills among learners:-** The way to promote vocabulary among learners is by giving learners verbally labels common brand and symbols where the teacher can explain the words. Thereby translating these words from pictures which further helps in language development. In the classroom, more activities can be put in which students make more interaction with their classmates and their parents which can help in taking pictures from their neighbors. In this way this activity is labeled as a group activity.
- **Point out the punctuation:-** Pointing out the punctuation really does make a difference in early childhood literacy. Many adolescents begin to read struggle with punctuation. If a teacher introduces the child to punctuation at an early stage it will help him to feel comfortable in reading and learning on his own. An important way to point out punctuation is to create a gain out of it for e.g. when you come to a question mark, let your child answer the question and when you come to an exclamatory point then make emphasis on exaggerated words in the sentence. In this way, the student will

automatically learn her of punctuation.

- **Supporting children cognitive development:-** There are different researchers to study cognitive development to understand the developing mind as an insightful form. At an early stage as infancy children derive theories. To explain the behavior of people and action of object. Young children's cognitive development helps the adults to work with children in having better scope to their learning. Early learning takes place and focus on growth of knowledge which is visible through language learning. In this way, cognitive abilities of young children are easily defined.
- **Sound recognition:-** This activity requires a few large letters and several small letters. For e.g. if a teacher wants to acquaint the students about letters 'B and F', he/she will have a heap of buttons and feathers, then having the child to say about the sounds that both the letters make. In this way this activity will encourage the child to find an object beginning with the same sound.
- **Working with young children:-** The teacher keeps noticing that young children are not like other students because their needs are unique. It is important to understand that young child has been interacted with outside environment o his or her own family. If a young child keeps separated from their parents, the teacher can help him. If the environment of the classroom is congenial and the teacher is supportive which makes the young child to interact him with his teacher and support from his classmates? Teacher in early education needs to be creative and adaptive because they have to be cautions to think outside their own mature perspective. It means these kind of things motivate young child.
- **Reading comprehension:** - It is one of the most important skill school age children need to have. It is one of the areas where many students struggle throughout their school carrier. If a teacher focuses on comprehension at an early stage, it will assume that the child will be able to develop comprehension skills which are better on needed to succeed him in a school.
- **Loud reading:** - Loud reading in the class is an important skill to enhance the learning strategies. Even the children are employing this reading, enhance their vocabulary and

start reading on their own. Developing early childhood literary skills helps the children to learn to love books and enjoy learning.

- **Experience observation and learning:-** Young children may experience observation and learning which later on allow them to conclude that X causes an effect Y for e.g. loud reading has an effect on the speaking skill of the student. In this way children correctly identify their speaking skill (effect) with the help of loud reading in the class.
- **By developing of theory of mind:-** Babies have a capacity to reason out and understand the mental lives and intentions of others for e.g. one year old infant child is faced with something familiar toy, he looks at that toy and is happy. Whenever her mother snatches that toy away from him he weeps and looks at her mother. So the theory of mind is developed.

## **PRINCIPLES OF EARLY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

The principles that relevant for learning and development of children are based on the insights and observations of thinkers. Each principle elaborates specific ideas and they are all interconnected like the domains of development.

1. **Children learn through play:** Play is an important to the child's well-being and development. Various plays provide opportunities for exploration, experimentation, manipulation and problem solving are essential for constructing their knowledge. Play contributes to the development of representational as well as abstract thought. Children engage in various kinds of play, such as physical play, language play, object play, or dramatic play, constructive play. Developing positive approaches to learning determines later academic success in life.
2. **Children's development and learning follows a sequence based on skills and competence:-** In the first few years of life the growth, development mostly follow a particular pattern. The way these changes are demonstrated varies in different context. If we know the sequence of development it will able in developing early simulated activities for children.
3. **Child Development and Learning are characterized by individual differences:-** No

two individuals are alike. So learning and development follows the different pattern for different individuals. Each child has its own styles of learning as well as own style of growth and development, strengths and limitations.

- 4 Learning begins from birth:** Children learn through all their senses and stimulations. Early care and stimulations whether positive or negative impact on children's development. Since later on care and early education promotes brain development which leads to the forming neural connections.
- 5 Critical periods in development:** Research evidences that from the beginning development occur at certain points in the life span. For example the child minimal period for oral language development is the beginning of three years of life in which social skills are developed effectively. Further it ensures that the children get the needed environmental inputs which support them for better learning and development.
- 6 All round development of children through experiential learning:-** Children learn best through active exploration like the senses such as touch, taste, smell and manipulation to build perceptual skills. Teacher should motivate the children by involving them in active participation and engage them to learn which thereby explore and build skills.
- 7 Development and learning takes place in all domains:-** Children are think, feel and interact with human beings and all domains for their all-round development.
- 8 Children learn and develop in a nurturing environment:-** During the early years of life, children move from sensory to symbolic knowledge. They goes on learn social context and in a meaningful interactions with other children, whenever they continuously must provide nurturing environment. In this way children learn to develop different character like empathy and cooperation, self-regulation, language acquisition, communication, peer relationships and self-concept.
- 9 Children's have curiosity and desire to learn:** Children are curious and desire to learn. Children observe what happens, talk, discuss and reflecting on their findings, they imagine for, ask questions, and formulate answers. They construct their knowledge and understand of the world. They learn as well as from teachers, family members, peers and

older children, and from books and other media.

**10. Development and learning is largely influenced by the social and cultural context of the children:** - Development and learning of children is largely depends on the influence of the child's family, immediate environment and the community. Every culture has its own norms, which have an impact on children's behavior and development.

**11. Children's learning reflects in awareness and to exploration:** - As the child gets experiences with objects, events, or people goes to utilize these objects in real life situation. Now children are able to use what they have learnt for multiple purposes and apply their learning to new situations. Now it is stage what children start exploring the next level of information.

## SUGGESTIONS

- Children should be learnt about teaching cues.
- Children devote special attention to the situation which are likely to represent learning opportunities.
- Here adults communicate their attention to teach something. So these kind of research findings need to be the apart of core curriculum which later on influences the educational, professional and support young children.
- Teacher and parent should motivate the children for active participation in activities and gain better understanding.
- Teacher should follow the sequence for better learning among children.
- Children devote attention for development with the help of experiential learning.

## CONCLUSION

Early childhood care and education aims at the holistic development and gender equality. For disadvantaged children this education plays an important role which has a global scope and care for young children being an integral part of human society. In this way different strategies when applied to children between births to 8 year age, are helpful in making children more confident, self-sufficient and independent social skills. Children get experiences from various objects, events which are useful in their real life. Children are curious about their question and answers

and construct their own knowledge from their teacher and parents. So the children learn to develop different character like communication, self-concept, identity formation and cultural socialization.

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