



The Initial Stages of Teaching Expressive Reading to Young Learners

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Abstract: This article discusses the importance of expressive reading in preschool and primary education, its components, and methods of development. It analyzes the attention given to preschool and primary education, the directions for improving educational quality, and methods for shaping speech and reading culture in children. The role of elements such as intonation, stress, tempo, and pauses in the process of expressive reading is explained, and effective exercises and teaching methods aimed at developing it are presented. This work serves as a valuable methodological guide for educational institutions, containing important information for teachers and researchers.

Keywords: Expressive reading, preschool education, primary education, reading methodology, speech culture, educational quality, pedagogical innovations, intonation, stress, pause, tempo, students' skills.

Introduction: The future of our developing new Uzbekistan undoubtedly lies in the hands of our youth. In order to be in line with the times and to be among the developed countries, we must have a solid "foundation" from the very beginning. The "foundation" is our preschool and school education system.

Preschool and primary education are crucial stages that determine the future of any society. It is precisely during these stages that children acquire fundamental knowledge and skills, and their thinking, speech, and social and emotional development begin. In recent years, the attention paid by the state and society to these stages of education has significantly increased.

“We consider preschool education, school education, higher and secondary specialized education systems, as well as scientific and cultural institutions, to be the four interconnected links of the future Renaissance. We regard kindergarten teachers, school teachers, professors, and intellectuals as the four supporting pillars of the new Renaissance era. I believe that, dear parents, you will undoubtedly support this initiative and become the fifth link and the fifth pillar of the new Renaissance. And this will become the most reliable pillar in our spiritual and educational life,” it was stated.

The attention given to preschool and primary education is increasing year by year. Reforms implemented by the state aim to improve the quality of education, introduce innovative methods, enhance teachers' qualifications, and focus on early childhood development. In modern education, individual approaches, interactive methods, and technological innovations hold significant importance. Therefore, the development of preschool and primary education lays the foundation for a knowledgeable, creative, and competitive future generation.

Expressive reading is a process of reading in a lively manner by using voice tone, tempo, pauses, and stress to enhance the emotional and meaningful impact of the text. It is not only mastering reading techniques but also the art of understanding the text and conveying it to the listener. Expressive reading has a significant impact on children's speech development. It helps them better understand the text, shapes their pronunciation and speech culture, increases their self-confidence, and develops creative thinking. Additionally, it influences the emotional richness of speech.

The initial stages of teaching expressive reading to young learners are based on developing their speech, pronunciation, sound differentiation abilities, and understanding of words. This process involves two main stages: preschool education and primary school teaching.

1. Preparations for Expressive Reading in Preschool Education

In preschool educational institutions (kindergartens), the following skills are developed for expressive reading:

- First, oral speech and listening abilities are developed. Speech development exercises are conducted. Children memorize and recite poems and fairy tales.
- In the next stage, children learn to pronounce sounds clearly and focus on phonetic accuracy. Sound

differentiation and discrimination exercises also play an essential role in this. For example, children are given tasks to distinguish words that start with the same sound.

1.2. Expanding Vocabulary

Various methods are used to expand children's vocabulary, such as using pictures to increase their word stock, creating conversations and stories based on new concepts, and engaging in simplified question-and-answer exercises. Additionally, exercises on rhythm and intonation (expressively reciting poems, songs, and chants), repeating and dramatizing dialogues (through role-playing), learning the alphabet (starting with capital letters), linking letters with sounds (e.g., teaching the sound of the letter "A"), and dividing words into syllables and pronouncing them sound by sound also ease the process of teaching expressive reading to preschool children.

2. Teaching Expressive Reading in Primary Schools

In primary school (grades 1–4), the following stages of expressive reading are present:

2.1. Initial Stage (Grade 1)

In grade 1, students strengthen the connection between the letters and sounds learned in kindergarten. They move from reading syllables to reading continuous text by practicing simplified texts. To develop their listening comprehension, students are required to listen to the teacher's expressive reading and follow along. Attention is also given to correct pronunciation.

2.2. Developing Expressive Reading and Comprehension (Grade 2)

By grade 2, students can easily understand the meaning of texts. They learn to read poems and stories expressively, managing volume, speed, and intonation. They engage in question-and-answer sessions based on the texts they read.

2.3. Analytical Reading (Grades 3-4)

In grades 3-4, students form questions and answers based on the texts they read, analyze the characteristics of characters, read expressively and dramatize the text (through role-play), and improve reading techniques such as speed, accurate pronunciation, and intonation.

Moreover, “In the context of collaboration pedagogy, models for improving the mechanisms of preparing students for social life are being implemented in practice.” Preparing students for social life, developing their emotional, psychological, and physical abilities through collaborative activities, and enhancing the coordination of mutual actions among individuals are becoming the focus of systematic work.

As evidenced by the above statements, we believe that

teaching expressive reading to children should not be solely assigned to preschool educators or primary school teachers. It is advisable for parents to collaborate with educational institutions and work with their children at home after school. Students may not always fully understand something or may not be able to ask their teacher. In such situations, when parents assist their children with learning at home, they also have the opportunity to clarify and gain a deeper understanding of the material.

Tools Used in Teaching Expressive Reading

- Audiobooks: Children listen to professionally read texts by actors or teachers to learn expressive reading.
- Cartoons and performances: Learning through observing how text and voice match.
- Play-based methods: Reading in theatrical forms, storytelling, and role-playing make learning expressive reading more enjoyable.

Exercises for Developing Expressive Reading

1. "Fast and Fluent Reading" Exercise – Students try to read a text expressively within a certain time frame.
2. "Changing Voice Volume" Exercise – Reading different sentences with varying voice volume.
3. "Emphasizing Key Words" Exercise – Increasing expressiveness by stressing important words.
4. "Driven Dialogue" Exercise – Students read a conversation between two or more people and express the emotions of each character.
5. "Describing a Text with Voice" Exercise – Practicing how emotions like excitement, happiness, or fear can be expressed with voice.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, teaching expressive reading to young learners begins with developing their speech abilities. In preschool education, the focus is on developing speech, sound differentiation, and listening skills. In primary grades, the emphasis shifts to comprehension, expressive reading, improving speed, and enhancing verbal expression. Gradually, students become proficient in independent and expressive reading. Expressive reading not only improves students' reading literacy but also develops their communication skills.

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