



The Role of Teachers in Integrating English in Kindergarten Daily Activities

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Abstract

This study explores the vital role of teachers in integrating English language learning into daily activities in kindergarten classrooms. By incorporating English into various activities such as playtime, circle time, and storytime, teachers can create a rich language-learning environment for young learners. The findings of this study suggest that teachers play a crucial role in fostering language development and creating a positive learning experience for kindergarten students. Teachers who actively engage students in English during daily activities help to build a strong foundation for language acquisition. Through interactive games, songs, and simple conversations, teachers can make learning English fun and engaging for young children. By immersing students in the language throughout the day, teachers can ensure that students are exposed to English in a natural and meaningful way, leading to greater language proficiency over time. Overall, the study highlights the importance of teachers in shaping the language learning experience for kindergarten students and emphasizes the impact of their role in creating a supportive and enriching learning environment.

Keywords: language acquisition, interactive games, songs, conversations, kindergarten students

INTRODUCTION

Student development must be synergized with language learning, such as English. This integration can greatly benefit young learners in their cognitive and linguistic development, ultimately setting a solid foundation for future academic success. Teachers play a crucial role in this integration process, as they are responsible for creating a learning environment that is conducive to language acquisition (Lawrence & Tar, 2018). Şevik (2011) stated that by incorporating English into daily activities such as songs, games, and storytelling, teachers can help young learners become comfortable and confident in using the language. Additionally, teachers can provide guidance and support to students as they navigate the complexities of learning a new language, ensuring that they are able to progress at their own pace and reach their full potential (Vishnevskiaia, 2019). Ultimately, the role of teachers in

integrating English in kindergarten daily activities is essential in fostering a love for language learning and preparing students for a successful academic journey ahead.

By creating a positive and engaging environment for language acquisition, teachers can inspire a lifelong passion for learning and encourage students to embrace new challenges with enthusiasm. Through interactive and hands-on activities, students can develop not only their language skills but also their critical thinking, creativity, and social skills (Houwer, 2018; Ravem, 1968). Teachers play a crucial role in nurturing the growth and development of young learners, guiding them towards becoming confident and proficient English speakers. Sayed et al., (2018) suggested, as educators, it is important to adapt teaching methods and strategies to meet the diverse needs and learning styles of each student, ensuring that all children have the opportunity to thrive and succeed in their language learning journey.

By integrating English in early childhood education, students are given a valuable foundation for future academic and professional success. Liang (2024) stated that language acquisition at a young age has been shown to have numerous cognitive benefits, including improved problem-solving abilities and enhanced communication skills. Additionally, early exposure to a second language has been linked to greater cultural awareness and appreciation, fostering a more inclusive and globally-minded society. As such, incorporating English into early childhood education not only prepares students for a multilingual world but also instills in them a lifelong love for learning and exploration (Mourão, 2018).

Teachers play a crucial role in language development in young children by providing a supportive and stimulating learning environment. They not only introduce new vocabulary and grammar rules but also encourage students to practice speaking and writing in English. Through interactive activities and engaging lessons, teachers can help children build confidence in using the language and develop their communication skills. Additionally, teachers play a key role in assessing students' language proficiency and providing feedback to support their growth and development. By understanding the importance of teachers in language development, educators can better support bilingual education programs and ensure that young learners have the necessary resources and guidance to succeed (Yung, 2023).

In order to effectively support students in their language learning journey, teachers must create a supportive and inclusive classroom environment where students feel comfortable practicing and making mistakes. This can be achieved through creating opportunities for students to engage in meaningful conversations, participate in group activities, and receive individualized attention from their teachers. By fostering a positive and encouraging atmosphere, teachers can help students overcome their fears and hesitations about

using English and instead inspire them to take risks and challenge themselves. Ultimately, by recognizing the vital role that teachers play in language development, educators can empower students to become confident and proficient English speakers (Ellis, 1988; Sorace, 1985; Kharkhurin, 2008).

Early exposure to the English language has been shown to have numerous benefits for young learners. Research by (Bauer, 2024) indicates that children who are exposed to English at a young age are more likely to develop strong language skills and cognitive abilities. Additionally, early exposure to English can help children become more culturally aware and open-minded individuals. By introducing children to English early on, educators can lay a solid foundation for future academic success and personal growth. For example, a study conducted Pontier (2016) in bilingual preschools found that children who were exposed to English from a young age demonstrated higher levels of proficiency in the language compared to those who were introduced to it later. These children also showed greater cognitive flexibility and problem-solving skills, which are crucial for academic success.

While early exposure to English may have benefits, it is important to consider the potential drawbacks of focusing solely on one language at a young age, such as limited exposure to other languages and cultures. Additionally, not all children may have equal access to early English language exposure, which could create disparities in educational opportunities. For instance, a study from Duncan (2020) found that children who were raised in bilingual households from a young age were able to switch between languages more easily and had a greater understanding of different cultures. However, children who only learned English early on may struggle with language acquisition later in life when they are exposed to other languages or cultural contexts (Pérez-Vidal, 2007).

Teachers in classroom settings can help by incorporating English vocabulary and phrases into everyday routines, encouraging language development

through practical application. This can be done through activities such as reading English books, singing English songs, and using English in classroom discussions. Parents can also play a role by speaking English at home, exposing their children to the language in various contexts. By consistently integrating English into daily activities, children can develop a strong foundation in the language and be better prepared for future language learning opportunities.

Additionally, incorporating English into daily activities can help children feel more comfortable and confident using the language in real-life situations. This can lead to increased fluency and proficiency over time. It is important for educators and parents to create a supportive and encouraging environment for children to practice and improve their English skills. By making language learning fun and engaging, children are more likely to stay motivated and continue to progress in their language development. Ultimately, the goal is to provide children with the tools and resources they need to succeed in a multilingual world.

The previous research results by Pyle et al., (2018) revealed three common challenges with integrating play and literacy learning: direct instruction plays a key instructional role, play is less structured and difficult to plan, and feeling uncertain how to implement guided play. These results point to the need for additional research and teacher training with respect to implementing guided play for literacy learning, as well as strategies for balancing direct instruction with play-based approaches.

This research aims to analyze the role of teachers in integrating English into kindergarten daily activities. The research paper will explore various methods and strategies that teachers can use to effectively incorporate English into daily lessons and activities, as well as the challenges they may face in doing so. Additionally, the research will examine how early exposure to English can enhance young children's cognitive skills, such as problem-solving, critical

thinking, and memory retention. By shedding light on the importance of bilingual education in early childhood, this research paper seeks to provide valuable insights for educators, policymakers, and parents on the benefits of introducing English at an early age.

METHOD

This research is categorized as qualitative research, utilizing interviews and observations to gather data (Creswell & Creswell, 2017; Miles et al., 2014). The data will be analyzed using thematic analysis to identify key themes and patterns. The interviews will involve teachers who have experience with guided play in their literacy instruction, as well as experts in early childhood education. Observations will be conducted in classrooms where guided play is being implemented to understand the practicalities and challenges faced by teachers. By analyzing the data using thematic analysis, we hope to shed light on effective strategies for implementing guided play in literacy learning and provide valuable insights for educators and policymakers looking to incorporate play-based approaches in their teaching practices. The results will then be used to inform recommendations for educators and policymakers.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The Role of Teachers in Integrating English in Kindergarten Daily Activities

Based on the data from interview, researcher found that teachers role in integrating English in kindergarten daily activities could be started by creating a language-rich environment in the classroom. This includes displaying labels and signs in both English and the students' native language, incorporating English vocabulary into daily routines and activities, and providing opportunities for students to practice speaking and listening in English. By immersing students in a language-rich environment, teachers can help them develop their language skills in a natural and engaging way. This approach can also help

students feel more comfortable and confident using English in their everyday lives.

The teachers use music, games, and play to teach English. Songs and music can be proven to be an effective listening activity that has multiple benefits to offer. Particularly in the case of young and elementary learners, music has been used widely to teach important concepts in a fun way by second language teachers (Kumar, 2022). Games and play also provide interactive and engaging ways for students to practice their language skills in a relaxed and enjoyable setting. By incorporating cultural elements such as traditional games or folk songs into language lessons, students can gain a deeper appreciation for the language and its cultural significance. This holistic approach to language learning not only enhances language proficiency but also promotes cross-cultural understanding and empathy among students.

The observation is conducted in classrooms where guided play is being implemented to understand the practicalities and challenges faced by teachers. The data found that the teacher was incorporating English into everyday routines and activities. This included using English songs during transitions, incorporating English vocabulary into games and activities, and encouraging students to speak English during group work. By making English a natural part of their daily routine, students were able to gain a better understanding of the language in a fun and engaging way. The teacher's efforts to integrate English into various aspects of the classroom not only helped improve language proficiency but also fostered a sense of cultural awareness and empathy among the students.

Challenges and Solutions

One of the main challenges faced by teachers in teaching English in kindergarten is the lack of resources. Without access to appropriate materials and tools, it can be difficult to effectively engage young learners

and make the learning process enjoyable for them. However, there are several solutions that can help overcome this obstacle. Teachers can create their own teaching materials using everyday objects, pictures, and simple props to make lessons more interactive and engaging. Additionally, they can utilize online resources and educational apps to supplement their teaching and provide students with additional practice opportunities. By being resourceful and creative, teachers can effectively teach English in kindergarten despite limited resources (Böse, 2023; Kim, 2024).

Visual aids and gestures becomes a strategy to help convey language concepts. By using pictures, flashcards, and hand movements, teachers can make the meaning of words and phrases more clear to their students. Another helpful technique is to use simple and repetitive language, breaking down complex concepts into smaller, more manageable parts. This can help students grasp the basics of English before moving on to more advanced topics. Additionally, incorporating songs, rhymes, and games into lessons can make learning English fun and engaging for young learners. By utilizing these strategies, non-native English speaking teachers can effectively overcome the language barrier and create a positive and productive learning environment for their students (Chen, 2023; Kan, 2008; Nicoladis, 2006; Thai, 2024).

Other strategy for promoting language integration is to incorporate a variety of activities that cater to different learning styles and preferences. This can include group discussions, role-playing exercises, and multimedia presentations that engage students in meaningful language practice. Additionally, incorporating real-world contexts and authentic materials can help students see the relevance of English language skills in their daily lives. By making language learning relevant and engaging, teachers can motivate students to actively participate and communicate in English (Attig, 2019;

Chinzer, 2023; Muravev, 2023; Palaigeorgiou, 2018).

CONCLUSION

By fostering a positive and encouraging atmosphere in the classroom, teachers can help students feel more comfortable taking risks and making mistakes, which are essential components of the language learning process. This supportive environment can also help students develop a growth mindset, where they see challenges as opportunities for growth rather than obstacles to overcome. By incorporating a variety of interactive and engaging activities into their lessons, teachers can keep students motivated and excited about learning English, ultimately leading to greater progress and proficiency in the language.

Some recommendations for teachers and educators include providing constructive feedback to students that focuses on their efforts and progress rather than solely on their mistakes. Encouraging collaboration and group work can also help create a sense of community and support among students, fostering a positive learning environment. Additionally,

incorporating real-life language situations and cultural context into lessons can make the learning experience more relevant and meaningful for students. Ultimately, by creating a supportive and engaging classroom environment, teachers can help students thrive and succeed in their language learning journey.

Future directions for research on integrating English in kindergarten daily activities could focus on exploring the effectiveness of different teaching methodologies, such as immersive language learning or project-based learning. Research could also delve into the impact of incorporating technology into language lessons, as well as the role of teacher training and professional development in promoting successful language integration. Additionally, studies could investigate the long-term effects of early English language exposure on students' language proficiency and academic success. By addressing these areas, researchers can provide valuable insights into how to enhance English language learning in kindergarten settings and beyond.

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