

**PEDAGOGICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR IDENTIFYING AND DEVELOPING THE  
ABILITIES OF PRESCHOOL CHILDREN.**

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**Abstract:** This thesis highlights effective methods for early identification of preschool children's abilities and ways to develop them. The preschool period is a crucial stage in the formation of a child's personality, during which the child's thinking, speech, creativity, emotions, and independent reasoning develop rapidly. Therefore, it is important for teachers and parents to collaboratively use observation, play activities, creative tasks, and testing to identify a child's natural talents. The article also analyzes the role of individualized pedagogical approaches, psychological diagnostics, creating a developmental environment, and taking children's interests into account.

**Keywords:** preschool age, ability, talent, giftedness, early identification, observation, creative play, speech development, thinking, psychological testing, pedagogical approach, individual development, child psychology, developmental environment, parent-teacher collaboration, musical activities, visual arts, creativity, observation skills, motivation.

**Introduction:**

Preschool age is one of the most important and responsible periods in a person's life. It is during this time that the foundation of a child's personality is formed, and their interests, needs, worldview, and natural abilities emerge. Every child is unique, born with irreplaceable talents and capabilities. Therefore, early identification of children's abilities and creating favorable conditions for their development is one of the most pressing issues in pedagogy and psychology. Today, one of the key directions of the education system is the individualized study of each child, identifying their natural abilities, and fostering their development. This approach receives special attention in preschool educational institutions because, at this age, children actively explore their surroundings, ask questions, think creatively, and begin to express themselves through play, drawing, singing, or movement.

An ability is an internal quality that enables a child to successfully perform a particular activity. It is based on innate predispositions, but it is fully shaped only through the environment, upbringing, and properly guided pedagogical influence. Therefore, the main task of the educator is to motivate the child, observe each of their actions, identify their interests, and direct them toward purposeful activity. There are many effective methods for identifying abilities in preschool education, including observation, play-based tasks, creative activities, psychological tests, interviews, experiments, and individualized monitoring. Through these methods, teachers can assess children's thinking skills, creative imagination, attention and memory characteristics, speech development, and aesthetic taste.

**Main body**

Preschool-aged children are in the most active period of creativity, natural curiosity, and desire to learn. Therefore, early identification and proper development of their abilities is one of the key directions in the pedagogical process. Timely detection of a child's abilities not only helps to

reveal their talent but also creates significant opportunities for determining their future education and career paths.

The concept of ability refers to a set of individual psychological characteristics that enable a person to successfully perform certain activities, formed through innate talent and social experience. In preschool age, these characteristics are still developing, so proper guidance and support are necessary. For example, if a child shows early interest in music, drawing, logical games, or verbal expression, this indicates the formation of a specific ability.

The teacher plays a central role in understanding, observing, and properly guiding the child. Educators maintain constant interaction with the child, analyzing their emotions, interests, play activity, and behavior. Each action, question, or creative work of the child provides information about their inner world. Therefore, a teacher must be observant, patient, and analytical.

Teachers effectively use the following methods to identify abilities:

1. Observation – watching the child during play, conversation, and creative activities to identify natural talents.
2. Play tasks – using games that measure thinking, memory, attention, and imagination.
3. Creative activities – drawing, singing, dancing, modeling, or dramatization to assess aesthetic and artistic abilities.
4. Psychological tests – evaluating the child's thinking speed, memory, speech development, and emotional stability.
5. Interviews and Q&A – understanding the child's worldview, interests, and logical thinking level.

Creating a supportive environment is as important as identifying abilities. A developmental environment allows the child to play freely, experiment, ask questions, and try new things. In the classroom, this can be achieved through creative centers such as art, construction, natural science, mathematics, and speech development, giving children the freedom to choose and explore.

### **Conclusion**

Preschool-aged children are a source of endless potential, harboring abilities and talents that have not yet fully manifested. Each child is born with unique and incomparable creative potential. Early identification and proper guidance of these abilities is not only the responsibility of educators but also a crucial task for society as a whole. Recognizing and supporting each child's potential in a timely manner lays the foundation for raising a well-rounded, creative, and independent individual.

The process of identifying abilities is complex and requires a creative approach. In this process, the educator is not only an observer but also an inspirer, guide, and motivator. Through play, conversation, music lessons, artistic activities, or experiments, the teacher can uncover the child's inner world, understanding what interests them and where their talents lie.

The most important condition for early identification of a child's abilities is a supportive environment and parental collaboration. When parents observe and support their child's interests and abilities at home, and the teacher develops them systematically, these two environments together create conditions for the child's talent to flourish.

Moreover, in modern education, innovative approaches—such as digital observation cards, interactive activities, psychological tests, and individual development charts—play a significant role in identifying and evaluating abilities. These methods allow educators to analyze children's activity levels, thinking speed, and creative thinking more accurately.

Most importantly, when assessing abilities, children should never be compared with one another; instead, each child's personal developmental dynamics must be taken into account. Every child grows, learns, and expresses their abilities in their own way. Proper guidance, a warm environment, and care are the most reliable ways to nurture talent.

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