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THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING FOREIGN LANGUAGE AT AN EARLY AGE

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Introduction

This document aims to elucidate the significance of acquiring a foreign language during childhood.Many experts argue that acquiring a language before the age of ten enables children to speak it correctly and fluently, as if they were native speakers. Consequently, the earlier children become acquainted with a foreign language, the greater their chances of achieving proficiency in it. Moreover, learning a language other than one's mother tongue can cultivate a lifelong skill of effective communication with others. One significant advantage of mastering a foreign language is gaining access to enhanced job prospects, as well as developing a deeper understanding of one's own culture and other nations. In today's society, knowing a foreign language brings about various benefits, such as bolstering economic competitiveness on the global stage, improving global communication, and safeguarding a country's political and security interests. Research indicates that if children learn languages before reaching puberty, they have a higher likelihood of speaking a foreign language with native-like pronunciation. Additionally, familiarity with the cultures of other nations broadens a child's perspectives and attitudes, while also providing opportunities for intercultural communication. It is now widely recognized that studying a foreign language offers remarkable advantages for children, including improved communication skills, enhanced cognitive development, a deeper appreciation for different cultures, and ultimately, better career prospects for those who possess foreign language proficiency Ferreira, F., & Morrison ,F. J. (1994).According to research, it is becoming increasingly important for children to have proficiency in two languages by the time they enter college. The optimal time to introduce a new language to a child is from birth to age 10, as they are able to learn and retain it more easily and even develop near-native pronunciation. In fact, recent studies have shown that children up to age 5 can learn and process up to five languages! Parents often struggle with how to introduce a new language to their child, but experts recommend a bilingual approach for young children. Fortunately, the internet has made it easier to find fun and affordable bilingual products that can help bring the target language into a child's life. Look for programs that offer online samples of their visual or audio products to get a better sense of the content and style of language learning within that particular program.

Goals and objectives

The main goal of this project is :
1)enhancing core cognitive skills, including reasoning, problem solving, and memory
2) improving communication and intercultural skills.
The main objective of this project is:
1)provide a competitive edge in career choices
2)enhances listening skills and memory
3)improve the verbal fluency of the speaker

Learners' profile

Enlightened school systems have come to realize that foreign languages should be introduced in elementary school. Research shows that children at a young age have a greater ability to learn languages compared to high school students. However, recent studies suggest that the best time to start teaching a foreign language is when the child is learning their first language. Babies have an incredible ability to absorb information, and in today's world, knowing a foreign language is not a luxury but a necessity. Research has shown that learning a foreign language offers numerous benefits

to children, including improved communication skills, cognitive development, cultural awareness, and better job opportunities. Moreover, it is expected that all children will need to have command of two languages by the time they reach college. Studies suggest that the best time to introduce new languages to a young child is from birth through age 10. Children learn languages faster, retain them better, and often speak them with near-native pronunciation. Recent research even indicates that children up to age 5 can learn and process up to five languages! For my case study, I have decided to observe 3rd grade pupils at school 12 in Kiziltepa district. All pupils say that they start acquiring language skills from the moment they are born. They naturally focus on their parents' voices rather than random sounds or different languages. However, it takes them until the age of ten to truly grasp the intricacies of language. In fact, according to Davis Singleton our language learning journey never truly ends, as we continue to learn and refine our language skills throughout our lives. This process is quite different from the instinctual behavior observed in animals, such as foals being able to walk within an hour after birth.

Exposing a child to a foreign language at an early age enables them to maximize their learning potential, contributing to the development of their brain during its most adaptable stage. Young children possess a distinct advantage when it comes to acquiring a foreign language. The cognitive ease with which they learn a second language is comparable to learning their first language. Similar to how they effortlessly learned to walk, young children can attain native-like fluency. Unlike adults who must navigate through an established first-language system, studying explicit grammar rules and engaging in repetitive drills, young children acquire language naturally. They intuitively absorb the sounds, structures, intonation patterns, and rules of a foreign language, just as they did with their mother tongue. The young brain possesses inherent flexibility and is uniquely wired to naturally acquire language.Children also acquire the understanding of distinguishing between grammatical accuracy and semantic coherence. Noam Chomsky illustrated this distinction through the sentence "Colorless green ideas sleep furiously." Children are aware that despite the sentence being grammatically correct, it lacks meaning. They comprehend that green is a color and cannot be colorless. (Harrison, B., & Papa, R. (2005).During the early stages of childhood, language acquisition is at its peak. However, as individuals grow older, the ability to learn a foreign language becomes more challenging. From birth until adolescence, the brain is naturally inclined to acquire language effortlessly. As a child reaches puberty, the process of language learning and retention undergoes a transformation, becoming less adaptable.

Conclusion

English language should be offered as more than just one course, as it can serve as a scientific language and be incorporated into other training courses. For instance, subjects like science, history, social studies, and biology should be taught in English. This approach significantly enhances the power and speed of language acquisition. The best time to learn English is during primary school, especially for children. Learning the language alongside their native language in the first ten years of life enables disabled students to independently grasp and utilize English without the need for translation, interpretation, or altering its meaning from Persian. Consequently, individuals will be able to speak English fluently, just like their native language, without relying on Persian translations in their minds. Early childhood is the optimal period for language acquisition, as the ability to learn a foreign language becomes more challenging with age. From birth to adolescence, the brain is naturally wired to acquire language. However, as a child approaches puberty, the process of language learning and retention becomes less flexible. Many experts believe that learning a language before the age of ten allows children to speak correctly and fluently, resembling a native speaker. Therefore, the earlier children become acquainted with a foreign language, the better their chances of achieving proficiency. Additionally, learning a language other than one's native tongue equips individuals with a lifelong skill to effectively communicate with others.

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