

FOSTERING CREATIVE THINKING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD: A KEY TO SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL READINESS

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Annotation: *This article examines the role of creative thinking in preparing children for school education, with a particular focus on children aged 6–7. It highlights how creative thinking supports cognitive, emotional, and social development, and enhances problem-solving, communication, and adaptability skills. The article also describes the specific characteristics of creative thinking at this age, including imagination combined with logic, curiosity, flexibility, and collaborative interaction. Furthermore, it emphasizes the importance of the role of parents and educators in fostering creativity through supportive and engaging activities. The study concludes that developing creative thinking in early childhood is essential for successful school readiness and lifelong learning.*

Keywords: *creative thinking, school readiness, children, early childhood education, imagination, problem-solving, 6–7-year-old children, cognitive development, creativity, learning process*

Аннотация: *В данной статье рассматривается роль творческого мышления в подготовке детей к школьному обучению, с особым акцентом на детей в возрасте 6–7 лет. Освещается влияние творческого мышления на когнитивное, эмоциональное и социальное развитие, а также на формирование навыков решения проблем, коммуникации и адаптации. Описываются особенности творческого мышления в данном возрасте, такие как сочетание воображения и логики, любознательность, гибкость мышления и способность к сотрудничеству. Также подчеркивается важная роль родителей и педагогов в развитии творческих способностей детей. Делается вывод о том, что развитие творческого мышления в раннем*

возрасте является необходимым условием успешной подготовки к школе и дальнейшего обучения.

***Ключевые слова:** творческое мышление, готовность к школе, дети, дошкольное образование, воображение, решение проблем, дети 6–7 лет*

Preparing children for school is a crucial stage in their development, as it lays the foundation for future academic success and personal growth. Among the many skills that contribute to school readiness, creative thinking stands out as one of the most important. It not only enhances a child's ability to learn but also helps them adapt to new environments, solve problems, and express themselves effectively.

Creative thinking can be defined as the ability to generate new ideas, think independently, and approach situations from different perspectives. For young children, this often appears through activities such as drawing, storytelling, imaginative play, and asking questions. These activities are not just forms of entertainment—they are essential tools that help children understand the world around them.

One of the key roles of creative thinking in school preparation is the development of problem-solving skills. Children who are encouraged to think creatively learn how to explore multiple solutions rather than relying on a single correct answer. This ability becomes especially valuable in a classroom setting, where they are faced with new challenges and tasks every day.

In addition, creative thinking supports language and communication development. When children engage in storytelling or role-playing, they practice expressing their thoughts and emotions. This strengthens their vocabulary, improves their confidence, and prepares them to participate actively in classroom discussions.

Another important aspect is emotional and social development. Creative activities often involve collaboration, sharing ideas, and understanding others' perspectives. As a result, children become more empathetic, cooperative, and

adaptable—qualities that are essential for successful interaction with peers and teachers.

Moreover, fostering creativity helps maintain a child's natural curiosity and love for learning. Instead of viewing education as a rigid process, creative children tend to see it as an exciting journey of discovery. This positive attitude toward learning can significantly influence their long-term academic performance.

Parents and educators play a vital role in nurturing creative thinking. Providing children with opportunities for open-ended play, encouraging questions, and allowing them to explore their interests without excessive restrictions can greatly enhance their creative abilities. Simple activities such as drawing, building with blocks, or inventing stories can have a powerful impact on a child's readiness for school.

In conclusion, creative thinking is a fundamental component in preparing children for school education. It supports cognitive, emotional, and social development while fostering a lifelong love for learning. By encouraging creativity from an early age, we equip children with the skills they need not only to succeed in school but also to thrive in an ever-changing world.

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For children aged 6–7, creative thinking becomes more structured and purposeful compared to earlier years. At this stage, children begin to combine imagination with logic. They can create more detailed stories, develop characters, and follow simple plots. Their drawings become more meaningful, often reflecting real-life experiences mixed with imagination. For example, a child might draw a house but add imaginative elements such as flying animals or magical features.

In addition, 6–7-year-old children start to show flexibility in thinking. They can look at a problem from different angles and suggest multiple solutions. For instance, when given a simple task, they may come up with different ways to complete it, demonstrating originality and independence. This flexibility is a key indicator of developing creative thinking.

Another important feature of creative thinking at this age is curiosity and questioning. Children actively ask “why” and “how” questions, showing a desire to understand how things work. They enjoy experimenting, exploring, and discovering new ideas. This curiosity supports their learning process and prepares them for more structured academic tasks in school.

Social interaction also plays a significant role in creativity at this stage. Children engage in group play, role-playing, and collaborative activities where they share ideas and build on each other’s imagination. Through these interactions, they learn to communicate their thoughts, listen to others, and develop empathy.

Moreover, 6–7-year-old children begin to apply creativity in academic contexts. They may use imaginative approaches in reading, writing, and problem-solving tasks. For example, they might create their own endings to stories or find unique ways to solve simple math problems. This integration of creativity into learning makes the educational process more engaging and effective.

Parents and educators play a vital role in nurturing creative thinking at this age. Encouraging open-ended activities, allowing children to express themselves freely, and supporting their ideas without excessive criticism are essential. Providing

opportunities for art, storytelling, games, and exploration helps strengthen their creative abilities.

In conclusion, creative thinking is a fundamental component in preparing children for school education. For 6–7-year-old children, it becomes more organized, flexible, and closely connected to learning. By fostering creativity during this important stage, we help children develop the skills they need to succeed academically and adapt confidently to the challenges of school life.

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