

PARENTS' ROLE IN TEACHING YOUNG LEARNERS

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ABSTRACT

Parents play a crucial role in the early education of young learners. Their involvement significantly impacts children's cognitive, social, and emotional development. This article explores how parents contribute to their children's learning, effective strategies for parental involvement, and the challenges they may face. By fostering a learning-friendly environment, supporting language development, and using engaging teaching methods, parents can enhance their children's educational success.

Keywords: parental involvement, young learners, education, learning environment, cognitive development

INTRODUCTION

Education begins at home, and parents are the first teachers in a child's life. The role of parents in early childhood education extends beyond school assignments; it includes nurturing curiosity, providing a supportive environment, and guiding children's social and emotional development. Research has shown that children with actively involved parents tend to perform better academically, have higher self-esteem, and develop strong learning habits. This article explores various ways parents contribute to their children's education and strategies they can adopt to maximize their impact.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Many studies emphasize the importance of parental involvement in a child's education. According to Vygotsky's sociocultural theory, learning is a social process, and parents serve as primary facilitators in early childhood learning. Similarly, Piaget's

theory of cognitive development highlights the role of parental interaction in shaping children's understanding of the world. Studies also show that children whose parents read to them regularly develop stronger language and literacy skills, and those engaged in interactive learning activities perform better in school.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

1. Creating a Supportive Learning Environment

Parents can foster a home environment that promotes learning by:

- Providing access to books, educational toys, and creative materials.
- Establishing a consistent study routine.
- Reducing distractions such as excessive screen time.

2. Encouraging Language and Literacy Development

Language acquisition is crucial in early education. Parents can support this by:

- Reading to children daily to improve vocabulary and comprehension.
- Engaging in meaningful conversations to enhance communication skills.
- Encouraging storytelling and journaling to develop creativity.

3. Using Interactive Learning Methods

Parents can make learning engaging by incorporating:

- Games: Educational board games and puzzles improve problem-solving skills.
- Music: Songs and rhymes help with vocabulary retention and pronunciation.
- Storytelling: Interactive storytelling stimulates imagination and comprehension.

4. Encouraging Independence and Problem-Solving To develop critical thinking skills, parents should:

- Allow children to explore and make decisions.
- Support curiosity by asking open-ended questions.
- Praise effort and persistence rather than focusing only on results.

5. Challenges Parents Face in Teaching Young Learners

Despite the benefits of parental involvement, some challenges include:

- Time Constraints: Busy work schedules may limit direct engagement.
- Lack of Resources: Some parents may lack access to educational materials.

- Limited Teaching Knowledge: Not all parents are familiar with effective teaching strategies.

However, even small efforts-such as daily conversations, storytelling, or structured play-can make a significant impact on a child's learning journey.

CONCLUSION

Parents play an essential role in shaping their children's early education. By creating a supportive learning environment, encouraging literacy and language development, and using engaging teaching methods, they can significantly influence their child's academic success and overall development. While challenges exist, consistent parental involvement fosters lifelong learning habits, ensuring a strong foundation for future education.

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