

Preschool Education in Socialization of the Child

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Abstract

The purpose of early childhood education includes preparing children for primary education, supporting them in terms of language learning, developing their social abilities and eliminating possible inequalities in that period. Given the fact that mental development is formed mainly in this period of 0-6 years, the importance of preschool education is well understood. This paper aims to study; the role and expectations of the family, some of the effects on child's social development, the importance of curricula development and the teacher's role.

Key terms: Early childhood education, preschool, parental involvement, parents teacher meetings, family expectations

It is not difficult to predict that the child will reflect us in the future the education that we give them today. They will be the ones being in a position to make decisions about our country, in turn about us. From this point of view to ignore the education of children means to risk our very future.

The importance of parental education on early childhood education has not been reduced by means of the introduction of educational technology neither by the fact that the number of educational facilities have increased. The main reason is the fact that child's developmental characteristics are best known by the family which is closer to the child more than anyone else.² Education begins in the family. Basic elements of characteristics of an individual are formed within the family environment at early ages. They could hardly be changed later on. The characteristics such as extrovert-introvert, lazy-hardworking, truthful liar, positive-moody, self-centered-caring others are acquainted, develop in the family and often become permanent. It is difficult for school to change them. Therefore the most appropriate solution is to influence the family.³

School is an essential institution of society. Therefore it should take an active role and form an effective communication with parents who usually avoid relationship attempts with school. Thus it can strengthen its relationship with the society for which it is responsible.⁴

Usually, families communicate with the school when a matter arises concerning a complaint, a financial problem, a donation, financial aid request, student grade reporting, disciplinary issue and etc. As a result of such a communication the usual reaction of

families is either to worry, to have fear, to get angry or avoidance.

One of the effective ways to eliminate such reactions is to organize regular parents-teacher meetings ensuring active participation of parents. School and parents collaboration takes place when teachers, counselors and parents communicate and exchange information about the education, developmental stages and guidance of the child.⁵

General purpose of preschool education

The general purpose of preschool education can be stated as a system which helps develop child's physical, mental, emotional and social abilities stimulating a healthy environment to help ensure the conditions of the fundamental objectives of education, which strengthens personality development.

It prepares children with basic knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for further school life. This function of preschool education is important especially for children coming from socio-economically low level families.⁶

Family and parents education

Another important function of the preschool education is to organize parents training programs through which families gain the basic skills and attitudes necessary for child education at home.⁷ There are many advantages of the cooperation between family and school (teacher).

Firstly, it minimizes the differences in the views of the parents and the teachers in terms of education.

Secondly, it eliminates the differences in the behavioral approaches of the parents and the teachers towards the child.⁸

The cooperation increases the school achievement of the child which in turn increases the overall success of the school.

The parent's involvement should be planned and implemented to cover the entire educational process of the child either within or outside school environment.⁹

Parental Involvement Programs

The involvement process starts right after registering the child to the school. The records of information about the family and the child acquired during the registration would be useful to teachers to determine the philosophy of the parental involvement program to follow up further on.

The teachers should prepare the annual parental involvement program by planning in detail all the activities, events, seminars and related preparations, parent-teacher meetings, bulletin boards, brochures and etc. Meeting schedule should be done in accordance with the parents' availability.

When cooperating with parents, each family should be assessed separately. In order to develop an efficient school-family relationship, analyzing the cultural background of the child's family is very important. Cultural differences in perspectives of families may cause problems if school-family relationship is not established carefully. Family participation program should be prepared by considering cultural level and background of the families, their experiences, behavioral, and developmental expectations¹⁰

Child development

Concerning the development of children at early ages the functions and responsibilities of preschool educational system should have the following duties.

- To have role in ensuring the child's physical and mental development
- Protection of child's physical health
- Provide a medium to help stimulate an understanding of child's physical health
- Effective use of the physical facilities
- To provide confidence in child's emotional development¹¹
- To develop concept of love, tolerance and understanding others
- The development of a positive attitude towards child self-concept
- To help develop process of healthy socialization and adjustment of the child¹²
- To help develop the notion of group work and opportunities for healthy interaction in group
- To help develop recognition of the social environment necessary for the organization of events
- Allow the assessment and accumulation of cultural values and ensure social cohesion
- To help gain the basic good habits necessary for daily life
- Help develop the notion of self criticism
- Improve the learning ability
- Stimulate awareness of the importance the environment
- Extend the ability of reasoning,
- Development of creativity,
- Enrichment of language,¹³
- Prepare the child in further school life;
- Ensure social skills necessary for life,
- Enable the child to obtain the mental maturity
- To avoid inter-parental conflict¹⁴

Choosing a Preschool Education Facility

Collecting information about a preschool education facility before sending the child is very important. The search and information collection should be done without the presence of the child to avoid any complication in case the facility does not comply with the standards. The time of transportation should be taken into consideration. The appearance of outdoor facilities as well as furniture and toys must be clean, well maintained and compatible with the age of children. Fire extinguishers and alarm system must be available. The common use facilities must be clean and hygienic.

Policies concerning preschool system and the teachers

The area requires specific characteristics most important of which is the interest in the field. Unfortunately it is observed that preschool educators which select it as profession as the last option are taken into the university programs. Controversially, before getting admission to the preschool programs, they must be elected through written and verbal examinations. We observe many unwilling teachers getting admission without any personal interest and proper characteristics who could not go anywhere else.

The teachers are to be selected among the ones having passionate and merciful characteristics with tolerance and love towards children who are at early ages. Considering these characteristics female and already mother teachers might be given priority in recruiting teachers.¹⁵

The training seminars must be organized several times a year with effective programs giving importance to practicing along with the theory.

The performance of the teachers should be evaluated periodically. The ones having difficulties in coping with the system should be excluded.

Important points that a preschool educator should pay attention:

1. CHILD. Do not forget that the student is a child
2. Do smile as much as possible. Even when you have personal problems do not reflect them to your students.
3. Control your emotions.
4. Work hard

Conclusion

The importance of parental education on early childhood education has not been reduced by means of the introduction of educational technology neither by the fact that the number of educational facilities have increased. The main reason is the fact that child's developmental characteristics are best known by the family which is closer to the child more than anyone else. Education begins in the family. Basic elements of characteristics of an individual are formed within the family environment at early ages. They could hardly be changed later on. The characteristics such as extrovert-introvert, lazy-hardworking, truthful liar, positive-moody, self-centred-caring others are acquainted, develop in the family and often become permanent. It is difficult for school to change them. Therefore the most appropriate solution is to influence the family.

For this reason, the school management should pay attention to the relationship between parents and teachers to achieve success in education having the parents involved and actively participated in the educational process of their children.

An outstanding importance should be given to education of the child at the ages of 0-6 in society. Determination of the child's ability within this period helps redirection of the field he or she could study further.

The child may continue the appropriate education either in general public schools, in specialized private schools or military barracks as a result of such a determination. All the instructors and educators of preschool system should be aware of the fact that they will leave at least a trace in the lives of the preschool children. The children at this period should be regarded as small adults and they should not be isolated from social life.

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