DIFFERENTIATED LEARNING AS A MEANS OF SUPPORTING CHILDREN OF PRESCHOOLS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

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Abstract. *The article examines the role of differentiated learning in the preschool education system as an effective means of supporting children with special educational needs. It analyzes the theoretical foundations of the differentiated approach, the specifics of its implementation in preschool institutions, as well as the pedagogical methods and forms of work aimed at developing the cognitive, social, and emotional spheres of the child. The article presents scientific data confirming the effectiveness of individualizing the educational process for children with various developmental disorders.*

Keywords: *differentiated learning, preschool education, special educational needs, inclusive education, individual approach, and pedagogical support.*

Introduction

The modern education system is focused on creating conditions for the full development of each child, regardless of their individual capabilities and characteristics. In this regard, the problem of organizing the educational process for children with special educational needs (SEN) becomes particularly relevant.

Preschool age is an important stage in the formation of a child's personality, cognitive abilities, communication skills, and emotional development. It is during this period that the foundations for further learning and socialization are laid. However, children with special educational needs

face various challenges in mastering the educational program, which requires the use of specialized pedagogical methods.

One of the most effective means of pedagogical support for such children is differentiated teaching. This approach involves taking into account the individual characteristics, level of development, abilities, and educational needs of each child. Differentiation of teaching allows for the creation of a favorable educational environment that promotes successful socialization and development of preschoolers.

Differentiated learning is the organization of the educational process taking into account the individual characteristics of students. The main goal of this approach is to create conditions in which each child can develop according to their abilities and needs.

From a pedagogical perspective, differentiation means dividing the educational process into different levels, forms, and methods of learning, depending on the individual characteristics of children. In educational practice, it is implemented through a combination of individual, group, and collective work, as well as the use of various pedagogical technologies.

Research shows that differences in the pace of development, the level of cognitive abilities, memory, thinking, and temperament require an individual approach to learning. A differentiated approach allows for taking these differences into account and adapting the educational program to the capabilities of each child.

In the context of inclusive education, differentiation of learning becomes one of the key principles of pedagogical activity. It aims to ensure equal educational opportunities for all children, including those with disabilities.

Features of children with special educational needs. Children with special educational needs include those with various developmental disorders, including:

• speech disorders;

• visual impairments;

• hearing impairments;

• mental retardation;

• autism spectrum disorders;

• musculoskeletal disorders.

Each of these categories of children has specific developmental characteristics that must be taken into account when organizing the educational process.

For example, children with speech disorders experience difficulties in developing proper sound pronunciation and communication skills, which requires the use of special speech therapy methods and individual exercises. Research in the field of special education confirms that well-organized pedagogical work contributes to the successful development of speech skills in preschoolers.

Additionally, children with special educational needs require a specific educational environment that includes adapted programs, special teaching methods, and psychological support.

The role of differentiated learning in supporting preschoolers with special needs. Differentiated learning allows for an effective organization of the educational process, taking into account the individual characteristics of each child.

The main advantages of this approach include:

1. Individualization of the educational process

Differentiation allows for the adaptation of the content and teaching methods to the child's capabilities. This contributes to a more successful learning process and reduces anxiety levels in children.

2. Increased motivation for learning

When the tasks are tailored to the child's level of development, it fosters a positive attitude towards learning and encourages interest in cognitive activities.

3. Development of cognitive abilities

Differentiated tasks promote the development of thinking, memory, attention, and imagination.

4. Social adaptation

An inclusive educational environment promotes the development of communication skills and fosters positive interactions with peers.

Research in the field of pedagogy confirms that the use of individualized teaching methods contributes to the more effective development of children with various educational needs.

Methods of implementing differentiated teaching in preschool institutions. The implementation of a differentiated approach in preschool education involves the use of various pedagogical methods and forms of work.

Individual tasks - the teacher develops tasks of varying complexity, taking into account the level of development of each child.

Game technologies - play is the leading activity in preschool age. The use of didactic games contributes to the development of cognitive and communicative skills.

Group work- working in small groups allows children to interact with each other, develop skills of cooperation and mutual assistance.

Using visual aids - For children with special educational needs, it is important to use visual materials, illustrations, models, and interactive manuals.

Pedagogical support

Specialists of various profiles can participate in the educational process.:

- teacher-defectologist
- Speech therapist

• psychologist

• tutor or teaching assistant

Such interdisciplinary work allows for comprehensive support of the child and increases the efficiency of the educational process.

The practical significance of differentiated learning. Practice shows that the implementation of differentiated learning in preschool institutions contributes to:

• improving the quality of the educational process;

• increasing the level of children's cognitive activity;

• successful socialization of children with special educational needs;

• fostering a tolerant attitude among peers.

In addition, differentiated learning helps educators to organize educational activities more effectively and create a favorable psychological atmosphere in the group.

Conclusion. Thus, differentiated learning is an important tool for supporting children with special educational needs in preschool institutions. This approach allows for taking into account the individual characteristics of each child's development, creating favorable conditions for their learning and socialization. The use of differentiated teaching methods contributes to the development of cognitive abilities, the formation of communication skills, and the successful adaptation of children in the educational environment.

In the current context of inclusive education, the implementation of differentiated learning becomes a necessary condition for ensuring equal educational opportunities for all children.

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