

# *Research on the Application of Game Method in Children's English Teaching Activities*

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**Abstract:** with the rapid development of economy, English education for children has attracted attention in today's society. To improve the quality of children's English teaching, and allow children to truly master the knowledge they have learned through English teaching activities, which has always been a problem for children's English teachers. The application of game teaching methods has played a vital role in the teaching of children's English. This paper analyzes and studies the value of games in children's English teaching activities and the main categories of games in children's English teaching.

## **1. Introduction**

Games can stimulate children's interest in learning. Students of all ages can be motivated to study through games, so that they can fully experience the fun of learning. The so-called game teaching method is that teachers conduct teaching activities by playing games, so that students can enjoy the fun of learning, and naturally master the knowledge they have learned during the game<sup>[1]</sup>. In short, "game teaching method" is a teaching process that integrates "teaching" and "game", so that students can learn in happiness.

## **2. The Application of Game Method in Children's English Teaching**

### **2.1 Games Are the Basic Activities of Kindergartens**

Games are children's instinct and the need of children's development. Games have gradually become a necessary teaching means of children's English education. Children can grow up happily in games, understand knowledge, gain experience and develop in games. Language research shows that the age of 3-6 is the golden period for children to acquire language. Children at this stage have a strong desire to imitate and can easily absorb different language pronunciations. Therefore, at this stage, inserting games as an effective means of teaching assistance in the process of English teaching can help children better master the language. Through the game teaching method, children can feel the fun of Learning English in watching, listening, smelling, touching, thinking and playing<sup>[2]</sup>. Games are children's favorite way of entertainment, game teaching is not only in line with children's physical and mental development law, but also enable them to learn in pleasure.

## **2.2 Games Can Increase children's Interest in Learning English**

Many teaching practice studies have shown that in the process of children's English teaching, the teaching method based on games is the most close to the children's daily life. At the same time, it is most in line with the law of children's physical and mental development. The 2017 version of the "Outline" points out that games should be used as the most basic activity in the teaching process of children<sup>[3]</sup>. Similarly, children's English teaching should also take games as the main content, and encourage children to actively participate in English learning by playing games, so that children can improve their interest in English learning in a colorful game and happy atmosphere<sup>[4]</sup>.

## **2.3 Create Games through Situations to Allow Children to Learn in Games**

Children's English learning needs to combine interest and practice. In English teaching, teachers need to provide certain situations, so that children can participate in activities in the situation and experience the fun of language learning. In addition, English teaching can also encourage children to actively participate in related activities of English learning through games and entertainment. In the process of teaching, teachers can incorporate the words and phrases they have learned into the game. In this way, children can continuously consolidate the vocabulary they have learned in the game, and truly realize that children can learn in games and play in learning.

## **3. The Strategy of Combining Games with children's English Teaching**

### **3.1 General Situation of children's English Game Teaching**

Children's English game teaching is to use games as the main form to carry out children's English teaching activities. In other words, children's English teachers design game situations and game rules to allow children to participate in activities as game characters. In this process, teachers use game language to guide children in English game activities. Teachers can guide children to apply the flexibility of native language acquisition to the second language acquisition process by creating the same situation as the mother tongue<sup>[5]</sup>. The best way for children's English teachers to implement English education is to use games to stimulate children's interest in English learning. Through games, children use their senses and body movements to feel English, understand English, and finally acquire English. Teachers make use of the autonomy, fun, competition, and purpose of children's English games to allow children to learn English naturally, effectively, and actively, instead of traditionally and passively following English.

### **3.2 Classification of Children's English Game Teaching**

#### **3.2.1 Alphabet Game**

Letters are the smallest unit of words. Letter teaching is the foundation of learning English and plays a very important role in laying a solid foundation for children's English. In alphabet teaching, the pronunciation and recognition of letters are the focus of teaching, and children are easy to confuse English letters with Chinese pinyin. Through games, children can not only deepen their memory of letters, but also find fun in game learning. Letter games are mainly to cultivate children's ability to recognize and read letters, hear and distinguish letters, memorize letters and speak letters, as well as certain English thinking and response ability. Letters are an important and difficult point in children's English learning. Children should be able to master the 26 English letters proficiently, be able to recognize and read, and be able to speak and remember. Commonly

used alphabet games include: recruiting troops, finding neighbors, who is the fastest, hearing the sound to identify the letters, which letter has disappeared, and graphics to find the letters, etc.

### 3.2.2 Phonetic Game

The characteristics of phonetic transcription teaching are relatively boring. However, if some interesting and lively games are interspersed in the teaching, through lively and lively forms to speed up recognition, promote memory, and proficient in spelling. The enthusiasm and interest of children in learning can be stimulated through intense and fierce competition, which will achieve a multiplier effect with half the effort. Phonetic symbols game refers to encouraging children to recognize and imitate phonetic symbols by listening to pinyin and other games<sup>[6]</sup>. Learning a single phonetic symbol is boring, using games to achieve can stimulate children's interest in learning. Commonly used phonetic games are: listening to phonetic competition, listen to the words and find the vowels, listen to the sound and pick the phonetic symbols, guess the phonetic symbol, picking apples, find friends and so on.

### 3.2.3 Word Game

Vocabulary is the foundation of English learning. For young children, vocabulary is undoubtedly a big problem. To make children remember the pronunciation, meaning, spelling, etc., of words in situational games, children will not feel boring, and they can also experience different usages of words. Commonly used word games are: quick response, read the word; look at the picture to guess the word, match to spell the word and so on.

### 3.2.4 Sentence Game

Through role-playing and guessing games, students are stimulated with rich imagination, experience the usage of English sentence patterns in situational simulation, and stimulate children to express their thoughts and feelings with the vocabulary and sentence patterns they have learned. Commonly used sentence games include: crossing obstacles, dancing mats, falling paper, bomb games, listening to all directions, etc.

## 4. Conclusion

Under the new situation of educational reform and innovation, education needs to start from an early age. Therefore, preschool teachers should reform and innovate in the educational methods of children, scientifically and reasonably apply the game teaching method to children's English teaching activities, so that children can actively and happily learn language knowledge in an interesting game and happy atmosphere, so as to enable children to cultivate good learning habits and like English learning.

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