

## Innovative English Enlightenment Education——Pop-up Books

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**Abstract:** In recent years, the early education institutions of English are springing up rapidly, and the enthusiasm and demand of the society and parents for English Enlightenment education are becoming more and more intense. However, the establishment of early childhood English education system, teachers, hardware equipment and other development is not coincident, good or bad. According to this, the author put forward that English enlightenment education should not only carry out in early education institutions parents are the guide of early childhood English enlightenment. They can choose the appropriate enlightenment to turn over the book, stimulate the interest of young children to learn. Based on the physical and mental development characteristics of young children and the essential law of education, it is suggested training professional English enlightenment teachers and ensuring the quality of teaching to improve the ability of young children to learn English.

### 1. Introduction

With the rapid development of economic globalisation and the increasingly frequent communication between different countries, English, as one of the most widely used languages in the world, plays an important role. At present, especially, people's yearning for a better life is becoming increasingly prominent in our country. What's more, their cultural needs are also growing day by day, which finally shows a lot more expectation paid to children's education. Each parent has a lot expectations for their children, that is to make their kids be outstanding. In 2018, president Xi Jinping, at the national education conference, also put forward the new requirements to accelerate the modernization of education and build a powerful country in education.<sup>[1]</sup> Children are the future of a country and the hope of a nation. In order to build a competitive nation in education, we need to start with children. Family is the child's first school, and parents are the child's first teachers.<sup>[2]</sup> As a result, it is of great significance for children's learning and growth that parents carry out the English enlightenment education by accompanying their child while learning.

### 2. A brief review of English Enlightenment education

In terms of the social development of children's enlightenment education, it has been a trend for children to learn English. More and more parents are deeply aware of the importance of learning English well and hope their children can get high-quality and efficient English enlightenment education. Xing Mengqing (2016) found that English enlightenment education is very popular in China. There are many educational institutions of English enlightenment education in cities and towns, and this trend is becoming more and more prominent.<sup>[3]</sup> Deng Xiaoting(2019), by the method of survey, found that, in order to pursue the maximisation of economic benefits, the current educational institutions of enlightenment education tend to be market-oriented, weaken the functions of education and emerge the phenomenon of aristocratic consumption. Simultaneously, due to the reason of uneven qualities, high fees, inferior teaching qualities and so on, parents do not believe the educational institutions of enlightenment education.<sup>[4]</sup>

Regarding the self-development of children's enlightenment education, psychologists believe that

the more languages children master, the stronger their problem-solving ability is, and their mode of thinking is more flexible than having exposed to language at the early age too. Lenneberg(1967), a psychology professor at Harvard University, believes that the best time to learn a language is before the age of two to the puberty. After this period, it becomes more difficult for children to learn a new language due to the changes in their physiological structure.<sup>[5]</sup> Zhang Fangling (2019) thinks that children are more sensitive to language in early childhood than in other periods. Children in this period can distinguish and imitate sounds. If children are given English enlightenment education during this critical period, their sensitivity of English sense can be well cultivated, their learning interest can be stimulated, and their English thinking ability can be formed.<sup>[6]</sup>

Nowadays, English educational institutions are springing up all over the country in large, medium and small cities. Some parents are worried that their English is not good enough to guide their children, so they choose to send their children to educational institutions. Whereas, the present writer found in the investigation that the role of English enlightenment education in the family should not be ignored, and it is of great help to children's growth and their life. Parents can use some English enlightenment teaching aids, such as pop-up books, to carry out enlightenment education. As a result, children can immerse in a family environment with English for a long time and form learning habits. Furthermore, parents shall properly learn more about children's physical and mental development in their process of growth in spare time, which is also very helpful for English enlightenment education.

### **3. The current situation and problems of English Enlightenment education**

#### **3.1 Parents have no time and lack of confidence to tutor their children in English**

Due to the fierce competition in current world, more and more young parents are facing heavy work pressure. Many of them leave the task of raising children to their parents. Nevertheless, older adults know little about English, so it is even impossible for them to teach children English or create an environment for children to learn English. Simultaneously, the Old's excessive love for children and traditional education methods make children only want to play at home. As a result, children miss the essential time of English enlightenment education. Especially, many parents born after the 1980s and 1990s, if not most, are not proficient in English because they learn English later and also lack of the knowledge in children education, which leads to their lack of confidence in tutoring children in English and the less use of English in communicating with children. However, they do not want their children to be worse than other children, so they send their children to educational institutions earlier. Moreover, this may lead to children's fear and timidity due to the lack of parents' company.

#### **3.2 The teaching level in Enlightenment educational institutions is uneven, and the quality of education cannot be guaranteed**

Nowadays, most of the enlightenment educational institutions have already been market-oriented. To pursue benefits, plenty of institutions do not care whether teachers have related certification or not, and they lack systematic and professional training for enlightenment teachers. What's more, a large number of enlightenment teachers are very young, lack of experience, and have never been parents. They do not have a good understanding of children's education, physical and psychological development, and cannot teach children well. Plus, many educational institutions are like nurseries or younger children's educational institutions, which do not teach children much or just cope with their parents. They adopt the big class teaching, only let children read and recite words and sentences, and lack of individualized teaching, so that children's differences can not be fully developed. Under this kind of teaching style without edutainment, it is difficult to stimulate children's interest in learning English and cultivate their continuous learning enthusiasm, but make them reject and hate learning English. Even if a certain effect can be achieved, younger children's education mode with short time and high consumption can not replace parent-child education.

### **3.3 Teaching aids for English Enlightenment education is confused in quality and safety**

Suitable English enlightenment teaching aids can promote children's learning effect while reliable teaching aids can ensure children's physical and mental health. Whereas, some teaching aids for English enlightenment education on the market have super critical contents, which are not suitable for the cognitive law of children's physical&mental development. Parents should resolutely abandon them and select English enlightenment teaching aids which are simple and easy to understand, illustrated with pictures, audio and video. Also, to save costs and reap huge profits, many unscrupulous merchants produce faulty products. They replace good-quality teaching aids with inferior teaching aids that do not meet the standards, which brings security risk to children's health. Parents should be rational, do not covet little advantages and choose products that without a quality guarantee. They should select enlightenment teaching aids that are of good quality and safe. Moreover, parents should create a happy, relaxed and safe living environment for their children in daily life, improve their interest in learning English and cultivate their English thought.

### **3.4 The lack of English Enlightenment education environment makes it difficult for children to speak in English**

English learning cannot be separated from long-term, continuous and repeated input. However, many young parents do not know much about the laws of children's learning and physical&mental development. Also, they have no time and lack of confidence. As a result, these parents do not have long-term and repeated training for children in objects, pictures and English phonetics, which leads to the problems that children's memory can not be strengthened, and it is also difficult for children to associate objects or pictures with English. So they cannot remember and pronounce them. Only if parents use English frequently in their daily life, even though they only use simple common words such as apples, pears, oranges, rice, etc., it can create certain conditions and environment for children, strengthen children's cognitive ability and encourage them to speak in English spontaneously. Only in this way can children do not resist English psychologically or consider that their parents are forcing them to learn English.

## **4. The methods of English Enlightenment education**

### **4.1 Training professional English teachers to ensure teaching quality**

Training professional and high-quality enlightenment teachers can effectively improve teaching quality in enlightenment institutions for children. Therefore, it is necessary to strictly require the teachers of enlightenment education institutions to hold a related certificate. Only through systematic training and professional training can enlightenment teachers fundamentally realize the nature of education, learn the laws of children's physiological&psychological development, and know how to give better educate to children. Furthermore, enlightenment education institutions should regularly hold teaching seminars and exchange meetings, hold various kinds of teaching skill competitions and open classes so that enlightenment teachers can imitate and learn from each other. Simultaneously, raising the salary and treatment of enlightenment teachers, broadening their career development space, improving their accommodation conditions and solving their difficulties in daily life can attract more professionally trained English enlightenment teachers to teach in enlightenment education institutions.

### **4.2 Selecting appropriate Enlightenment materials to stimulate children's interest in learning**

Children of all ages have different directions and goals in learning English, among which, stimulating their interest in learning English is most important. Choosing enlightenment materials that are not only suitable for children's physical&mental development, but also suitable for children of all ages is conducive to stimulating children's interest in learning English. English enlightenment pop-up books will be the first choice. The books come with audio, strong in touch and bright in color. The contents of it cover all aspects of children's lives, which can help children to distinguish colors, recognize daily necessities and meet most of the things involved in life. For example, make

children know the colors yellow and red through bananas and apples. Through hemp rope and silk, children can feel rough and smooth. These objects continually stimulate children's nerves, strengthen their memory, deepen their sensory impressions, so that they have a basic knowledge and three-dimensional experience of English from an early age. Besides, the touchable enlightenment pop-up books can greatly reduce the difficulties for parents to read with their children. What's more, the combination of visual, auditory and tactile learning methods can stimulate children's interest in learning, enhance their reading experience, cultivate their sense of English, improve their cognitive ability, which can lay a foundation for their future English learning.

#### **4.3 Carrying out parent-child activities such as reading and singing to increase opportunities for parent-child interaction**

General enlightenment education institutions have classes twice a week and for two hours each time. The short teaching time is far from enough for children who are always full of curiosity about the outside world. Consequently, parents should try more to communicate with children in English in daily life, so that the stuff that children come into contact with can be solidified, and children can learn to imitate and express. Parents can also use enlightenment pop-up books to accompany children to read, sing and play together. They should guide and encourage children to read and sing loudly. Through a series of parent-child interaction activities, parent-child feelings can be cultivated. Children can also feel their parents' concentration and conscientiousness. As we all know, for children, living in a happy family in childhood, being influenced by their parents all the time, plays an indispensable role in physical&mental development, personality building, character cultivation, and school life.

#### **4.4 Parents and children manufacture pop-up books together, which is conducive both in study and entertain**

Besides parent-child reading and singing, parent-child co-production of enlightenment pop-up books can not only enhance the opportunities for parent-child interaction but also enable children to experience the process of making pop-up books. Unlike other parent-child activities, making pop-up books by parents and children can effectively combine learning and entertainment. Parents and children can acquire new knowledge and learn how to make pop-up books together in the process of making pop-up books, which has not only imparted knowledge but also added fun. Therefore, parents should spend more time with their children and guide them to participate in the whole process of making pop-up books. Letting children experience the process of painting, writing, folding, cutting and pasting with their own hands, which can make children realize that the arise of stuff are hard-won. Only when children participate in the production of pop-up books can they obtain a sense of achievement and joy. And then, they will know how to cherish and take good care of their works. In experiencing this production process, children have not only mastered new knowledge but also cultivated their ability to practice and think frequently.

#### **4.5 Promoting children to form good habits and improving children's ability in English learning**

William James, an American psychologist, believes that forming a habit and you will get a character; form a character, and you will get a destiny. Having good study habits can greatly benefit people of any age and can make people quickly adapt to different environments in study and living. With the influence by their parents' words and deeds for a long time at home, children gradually learn to read English enlightenment pop-up books spontaneously, form good reading habits and characters of autonomous learning, and exercise their logical thinking and problem-solving abilities, which lays a solid foundation for their future study. For children, the listening, speaking, reading and writing ability formed by cumulative effect can make them form conditioned reflex and stress response, lower the threshold of their English learning, and improve their English perception and language competence.

## 5. Conclusion

As one of the most widely used languages in the world, English plays an increasingly important role in international trade. Consequently, it is especially important to learn English well. Thus, to learn English well, more and more parents pay more attention to the family education, and the learning groups are gradually getting younger. Parents, as the first teachers of children, should try to earn more time to accompany children to learn and grow. They should try their best to create an English enlightenment education environment for their children. What's more, with the use of English enlightenment pop-up books, it can help parents accompany children to learn together, increase opportunities for parent-child interaction, stimulate children's interest in learning, develop their reading habits, enhance their ability of language expression and independent thinking, and lay a foundation for them to learn English well.

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