

The Overview of Early Learning Materials Development

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Abstract. “Learning resources” encompass a broad range of tools for educational purposes, such as textbooks, video content, graded reading materials, interactive games, online platforms, smartphones, and even dialogues that serve an instructional role. The study of early language learning materials did not last long, and it was not until the 1990s that they were formally treated as a separate academic field. Before that, it was considered less important than a teacher’s teaching performance. It seems that people cannot decide what is the most important in the process of education, but it can be said that learning materials are important. Learning languages early is crucial for a child’s development, and resources like picture books, audiobooks, language learning apps, and play-based activities enhance vocabulary, pronunciation, and sentence structure. Early language education teachers should recognize individual differences, create a language-rich environment, and provide positive feedback, while also engaging parents in the learning process. Material writers should develop simple, culturally diverse, interactive, and relevant content, ensuring it is tested and validated by educational experts for efficacy in teaching young learners.

Keywords: Early learning; learning materials; the importance of early learning materials.

1. Introduction

This overview of research on material development and its impact on language acquisition highlights the need for effective resources and the role of innovative educational tools in early learning. Current research on the development of learning materials provides limited insight into the real effects of various materials on language learning and development and offers minimal guidance on motivating teachers and learners to experiment with new materials. Kernan’s study showed that children’s early learning mostly depended on building material games, such as building toy castles [1]. Innovative educational resources have the power to change society. Nikolov gathered several instances of early language learning across national borders and demonstrated the striking connections between early language learning resources across national borders [2]. For instance, educational resources that incorporated games were more engaging, varied, and easier to understand. In early education, Rachel Langford emphasizes the significance of developing learning materials, particularly curriculum frameworks [3]. Learning materials are the foundation and the key, if people choose better learning materials, it will undoubtedly achieve better results in a shorter time. Parents are also givers and creators of early learning materials. As part of early learning, learning materials for primary education are very important. Ghosn conducted a study on learning materials for early English learners [4]. He believes that early English learning should use interaction. Rodriguez and Tamis-Lemonda studied language learning and learning materials in preschoolers [5]. Akgunduz et al also consider the importance of parents in early learning material preparation and involvement [6].

In the past, people did not pay enough attention to learning materials, and there was little research on learning materials, especially early learning materials. But with the development of The Times and the rise of knowledge level, people’s understanding of it is more and more profound. Early learning materials help build basic knowledge in areas such as language, math, science, and more. This information serves as a foundation for further education and gives kids a framework for understanding the outside world. It supports the cognitive development of children, fostering their ability to observe, analyze, solve problems, and think creatively. Early learning materials help children better integrate into family and society, understand culture and values, and develop a sense of citizenship and social responsibility. In general, early learning materials are essential for a child’s overall development. This stage of learning and experience has a profound impact on shaping a

person's character, intelligence, and behavioral habits. It's essential for families, educational institutions, and the broader community to collaborate in offering children diverse early learning resources and experiences, ensuring their optimal development.

2. Early learning

Recognizing the significance of early learning, experts have identified key aspects and challenges in preparing materials and curricula for preschool education. Experts who study the types of early learning activities children should engage in before kindergarten have highlighted several issues regarding the preparation of learning materials. Learning materials should meet the difficulty of young children and can stimulate interest, in addition, hands-on learning materials are very effective. Preschool education is very important for the whole long learning experience, so the learning materials of preschool education need to be paid enough attention. Mentioned the importance of planning curricula for children's early learning [7]. Early education begins at birth. Early education is important not only for normal children but also for exceptional children. Early education will affect people's entire development process and their relationship with the things around them. Early education is beneficial to brain development. Believes that early learning is a crucial issue and a factor worth considering [8]. Researchers emphasize the importance and power of early learning [9].

The development of children is greatly impacted by early language learning. Here's why learning a language at an early age is crucial: During early developmental stages, the brain is particularly amenable to acquiring language skills. The early years, when the nervous system is still developing quickly, are the best times to learn a language. Early language acquisition can improve the development of language-related brain regions. Learning a language at a young age enhances IQ. Children who learn various languages benefit from mental exercise, improved comprehension of intellectual ideas, and a broader awareness of the world. The most fundamental means of human communication is language. Multilingual people are more competitive in the workplace and can cover a wider range of fields. In general, early language learning provides children with rich cognitive and cultural experiences, while also laying a solid foundation for their future academic and professional careers. Therefore, parents and educational institutions should encourage children to learn multiple languages at an early age to provide strong support for their lifelong development.

3. International Development and Early Learning Assessment (IDELA)

The International Development and Early Learning Assessment (IDELA) stands as a crucial instrument for evaluating different developmental areas in young children, and research highlights its utility in assessing readiness for school. IDELA serves as a targeted evaluation tool for children between the ages of 3 and 6, specifically crafted to assess early literacy and numeracy skills, as well as motor and social-emotional development. Pisani et al., through IDELA measurement, believe that stimulation and learning in childhood are very important [10]. Wolf and colleagues explored various aspects of school preparedness in children [11]. Their findings endorse the usefulness of IDELA in determining a child's readiness for school. Additionally, the potential future applications of IDELA and comparable instruments are examined.

The Early Development Instrument for Early Learning Assessment, or IDELA, is a tool used to evaluate early childhood learning and development. It was created to comprehend the different domains in which children develop, such as language, cognitive abilities, social skills, emotional development, physical health, and emotional development. IDEAL's primary goal is to educate parents and caregivers about early intervention and tailored support to enhance their children's early learning and development. Through IDEAL's assessment, early learning materials and teaching methods can be more targeted and applied to meet children's developmental needs, thereby better supporting their early learning experiences.

4. Criteria for early learning

The crucial influence of early learning standards on the quality and direction of early education differs depending on cultural settings and educational frameworks. Scott-Little and colleagues contend that the significance of early education is defined by these learning standards [12]. Standards for early learning can vary depending on the education system and cultural background of different countries or regions. In terms of language development, the ability to understand and use basic language, including vocabulary, grammar, and phonetics. This also includes basic skills of language. Ability to interact with others, share, cooperate, and resolve conflicts. Basic self-awareness and emotional management skills. fundamental ideas in mathematics, ability to solve problems, memory, and observation. capable of making simple logical decisions and reasoning. possess fundamental motor abilities, including major and fine motor (like running and jumping) and fine motor (like gripping a pen or button). The capacity for autonomous learning, which includes the capacity to investigate, ask questions, and find solutions. Possessing social skills such as cooperation, respect for others, sharing, teamwork, etc. Build strong relationships with family and neighborhood, become involved in local events, and promote civic engagement and social responsibility. Educators and parents can create lesson plans and select the proper resources and techniques based on these criteria, which are typically utilized as a guide for early education. The implementation of these standards usually needs to take into account the individual differences of children, encourage them to develop their strengths, and cultivate their interest in independent learning, to help them build a solid learning foundation.

5. Importance of play and environment

The role of environment and play in early education is highlighted, showing how these elements significantly contribute to children's involvement, development, and learning. French believes that environment and play in early education are important and will make children feel involved and immersed [13]. The environment and play are significant components in early learning resources, having a positive effect on children's growth and education. Additionally, play serves as an innate method for children's learning. Through games, children can simulate real situations, learn ways to solve problems, and develop observation and creative thinking. Many games involve the use of language, which helps children's language development. Role-playing, storytelling, and other activities in the game encourage children to articulate their thoughts and ideas through language. Games can help children learn social skills such as sharing, cooperation, competition, and conflict resolution. These skills are crucial in interacting with others. Play assists children in enhancing cognitive abilities, including memory, observational skills, and logical thinking. For example, jigsaw puzzles can exercise children's spatial cognition and hand-eye coordination. Games can help children deal with emotions, learn to cooperate, accept failure, and develop patience and self-confidence. Rich and varied environmental stimuli can stimulate children's curiosity and desire to explore. This stimulating environment can include a variety of toys, books, artwork, and natural elements. A safe environment is a prerequisite for children to learn. A supportive environment can provide the support and encouragement children need in their learning. Children need to interact with other children and adults to learn social rules, language skills, and the ability to cooperate. Family and school are the primary social environments for children. Understanding and respecting children's cultural backgrounds and providing learning materials relevant to their culture can help promote their sense of identity and interest in learning. Therefore, early learning materials should take into account the nature of play, provide a variety of games and interactive teaching AIDS, and also focus on the creation of an inspiring, safe, supportive, and multicultural learning environment to promote the comprehensive development of children at an early age.

6. Early childhood education for low-income families

Highlights the challenges that low-income families face in providing early home education, with studies indicating a need for increased support in these communities. In a study by Manz et al., low-income parents participating in a child development home visit program participated in the initial development of an early learning scale [14]. Colegrove and Adair also argue that low-income families have early learning problems [15].

Early childhood education resources for families with low income should be readily available, and affordable, and provide a diverse array of learning experiences. The following lists of recommended early learning resources are appropriate for kids from low-income households: Free resources like picture books, tale books, educational games, and more are frequently available at public libraries. Age-appropriate books can be checked out from the library by parents, who can also bring their kids to regular reading sessions. Such teaching materials are cheap and can stimulate children's creativity. Used bookstores and markets often find inexpensive picture books and educational games. Although these books and games are second-hand, they are still good for children's learning. There are educational apps that offer free basic lessons to help children learn the basics of letters, numbers, colors, and more. Parents can choose a free or trial version of the app. Some children's programs and videos provide good content in terms of education. Parents can choose some popular educational children's programs and let their children learn while watching. Families can organize creative activities, such as crafting, baking, etc. These activities not only enhance children's practical skills but also expand their learning experiences. Some community organizations may offer free educational activities, including painting classes and music lessons. Parents can find such resources for their children to attend. When selecting materials for early education, parents should pick educational resources that suit their child's age, interests, and developmental requirements, while fostering a sense of curiosity and a desire for exploration in their learning. At the same time, parents' accompaniment and encouragement are also some of the most important educational resources.

7. Conclusion

Acquiring languages during early childhood is crucial for a child's comprehensive development. These are some recommendations for early language learning resources that can support kids' language acquisition. Give kids access to a large selection of picture books and storybooks, such as humorous stories and picture books, to aid in their vocabulary, sentence construction, and narrative development. Help the child develop their speaking and listening skills by exposing them to normal pronunciation and intonation through audiobooks and CDs. Use activities that teach language, including language cards, puzzles, letter magnets, etc., to assist kids in learning phonetics and recognizing letters and words. To assist the child in learning new words, sounds, and fundamental sentence structures, use appropriate language learning applications. These apps frequently include entertaining, engaging games. If the home is multilingual, encourage the child to learn multiple languages. A multilingual environment can help children better understand language structures and cultural differences. Establish the habit of family reading time, so that parents and children can read together, tell stories, and promote language and emotional communication. The above activities and materials can be incorporated during play to keep the child interested and motivated. Early language learning should be a relaxing, enjoyable, and interactive experience that allows children to master the language through play.

Early language education teachers and material writers should follow some best practices when teaching and writing materials to ensure that children get the maximum benefit from the language learning process: Early language education teachers understand individual differences. Children have different backgrounds, abilities, and needs when it comes to language learning. Teachers should be aware of these individual differences and adopt a personalized teaching approach that meets the needs of each child.

For the writers of early language education materials, the textbooks should be simple and clear, the language should be easy to understand, and the language level of children. Teaching materials should be interactive, including question guidance, interactive games, thinking questions, etc., to encourage students' active participation and enhance the effect of language learning. Teaching materials should be designed to be interesting and engaging, including pictures, stories, music, and other elements to stimulate children's interest in learning. The content of the textbook should be relevant to the child's life experience and can be applied in daily life to increase the practicability and operability of learning. Before being released, the materials need to be tested and feedback by education experts and actual teachers to ensure the effectiveness and applicability of the materials. The work of early language teachers and material writers is complementary, and their collaboration can contribute to a better language learning experience for children.

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