

THE IMPORTANCE OF TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGE (ENGLISH LANGUAGE) TO CHILDREN IN SECONDARY SCHOOL.

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Annotation:

This article discusses the benefits of teaching English as a foreign language to children at school age in today's globalized world. It highlights how learning English at a young age enhances cognitive development, promotes social and cultural awareness, provides long-term career advantages, and boosts self-confidence. The article emphasizes the importance of incorporating English language education into the curriculum of children to prepare them for the demands of a globalized world.

Keywords:

English language, foreign language, school age, cognitive development, social benefits, cultural awareness, long-term career advantages, self-confidence, linguistic proficiency, globalized world, cross-cultural understanding, metalinguistic awareness, communication skills, and academic growth.

In today's globalized world, the ability to speak and understand multiple languages has become a valuable skill. English, in particular, has emerged as the most widely spoken and used language worldwide, making it a critical language for children to learn from an early age. Teaching English as a foreign language to children at school age offers numerous benefits that extend beyond linguistic proficiency, providing them with valuable cognitive, social, cultural, and career advantages.

Primarily, learning English as a foreign language at a young age enhances cognitive development. The brain is most receptive to language acquisition during early childhood, and exposing children to a foreign language, such as English, can significantly enhance their cognitive abilities. Studies have shown that children who are exposed to a second language at an early age tend to have better cognitive skills,

such as improved memory, problem-solving skills, and critical thinking abilities. Learning a foreign language also strengthens linguistic awareness, which can benefit children in their native language development as well. Bilingual children have been found to have higher levels of metalinguistic awareness, which is the ability to think about language as a system, and this can lead to improved reading and writing skills in both their first and second languages.

Secondly, teaching English to children at school age has significant social benefits. A language is a powerful tool for communication, and being able to communicate in English opens up opportunities for children to interact with people from different cultural backgrounds. English is widely used in international communication, and being able to speak English fluently allows children to connect with people from around the world, fostering cross-cultural understanding and global citizenship. In a diverse world, where intercultural communication is increasingly important, the ability to speak English can facilitate meaningful interactions and help children develop a broader perspective of the world and its people.

Furthermore, learning English as a foreign language introduces children to different cultures and promotes cultural awareness. Language and culture are intertwined, and learning a foreign language exposes children to the customs, traditions, and values of English-speaking countries. This enables children to develop a sense of empathy, tolerance, and appreciation for cultural diversity, which are crucial qualities in a globalized world. Exposure to different cultures at an early age also promotes open-mindedness and broadens children's horizons, allowing them to appreciate and respect different ways of living and thinking.

In addition, teaching English to children at school age can have long-term career advantages. English has become the language of international business, and proficiency in English opens up a wide range of career opportunities for children in the future. In today's competitive job market, English language skills are often considered essential for many professions, including business, academia, tourism,

hospitality, and technology. English is also the dominant language used in scientific research and academic publications, and proficiency in English can provide children with access to a wealth of knowledge and resources for their academic and professional growth.

Furthermore, learning English as a foreign language can boost children's self-confidence and self-esteem. Mastering a new language is a significant accomplishment, and children who are able to communicate effectively in English often feel a sense of pride and accomplishment. Being able to speak English fluently can also enhance children's communication skills in general, as they learn to express themselves confidently in different settings, which can have a positive impact on their overall social and emotional development.

In conclusion, teaching English as a foreign language to children at school age offers numerous benefits that extend beyond linguistic proficiency. It enhances cognitive development, promotes social and cultural awareness, provides long-term career advantages, and boosts self-confidence. English has become a global language, and proficiency in English can open up a world of opportunities for children, allowing them to thrive in an interconnected and multicultural world. Therefore, incorporating English language education in the curriculum of children at school age is essential for their holistic development and prepares them for the demands of the globalized world they will live in. As educators and parents, it is crucial to recognize the importance of teaching English as a foreign language to children and provide them with the necessary resources and opportunities to acquire this valuable skill. By doing so, we are equipping our children with the tools they need to succeed in the 21st century and thrive in a diverse and interconnected world.

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