

## CONCERNING THE ACQUISITION OF ENGLISH AT A YOUNG AGE

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### *Abstract:*

This article discusses the impact and benefits of children's early learning of English, self-esteem, motivation, fluency, and their upbringing and psychology. This study investigates the relationship between age of first exposure to English and ultimate attainment in phonology and grammar. A cohort of children aged 3-6 were followed over a three-year period, with their English language development assessed using standardized tests and spontaneous speech samples. Results indicate a statistically significant advantage for children who began learning English before the age of 5 in terms of pronunciation accuracy. Grammatical development showed a less pronounced, but still significant, advantage for the early exposure group. These findings provide further support for the sensitive period hypothesis in second language acquisition."

*Key words:* interactive, language learning, knowledge, role-playing games, narration, academic abilities, intonation, vital abilities.

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Language is a national priority in our country, enjoying strong presidential support. We also recognize the truth in the traditional saying, "Knowledge acquired in youth is like a pattern carved in stone," which highlights the enduring impact of early learning. This is evident in the growing interest in English among our young children, even at the kindergarten level. While the enthusiasm for English is clear, experts in linguistics and psychology underscore the effectiveness of initiating foreign language education during childhood. This raises the question: Why should children learn English, and at what age is it best to start? The ideal age for commencing English learning is not a universally agreed-upon point, as children learn best when they internalize information actively. Experts including psychologists, educators, parents, and researchers propose varying ages for starting English education, but one central consideration for all is the importance of making language learning a positive and engaging experience. Methods like fairy tales, English rhymes, and interactive games can keep children interested and motivated. Furthermore, learning English between the ages of three and five can simultaneously enhance a child's fine motor skills, focus, determination, imagination, and various other vital abilities. Most educators and psychologists advocate for starting during this period as it offers a uniquely appropriate time frame for language acquisition.

Although there's a considerable difference in development between three and five-year-old children, certain similarities make it appropriate to consider them together for early English learning. These include the use of "I" in their speech, an increasing self-esteem that responds well to adult encouragement, active participation in role-playing games that can be used for language instruction, growing curiosity about the world, and a need for external motivation. English is a dominant language globally and is essential for advancement and success in many aspects of life. Therefore, early exposure to English is vital for a child's overall development, helping them achieve future success, learn new cultures, and utilize their well-developed figurative memory. Furthermore, learning English creates many opportunities for children, such as participation in online courses and study abroad programs. Parents play a key role in ensuring that children have the best resources for these opportunities. With the help of the internet, learning English online is easier than ever.

One of the most significant advantages of starting English language learning in early childhood is vocabulary growth. From simple words like "dog," "cat," and "car" to complex phrases such as "extendable," children develop their understanding of words. Dictionaries help them internalize new concepts while spoken English practice builds their skills in intonation and spelling. Even a basic understanding of the alphabet can empower them to learn new things. By starting early, children can master new concepts and subjects more easily. Furthermore, early English instruction in kindergarten enhances comprehension, even with confusing or abstract ideas, inspiring them to explore their world. Additionally, early language learning promotes academic abilities, as well as creativity and imagination.

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Potential Concerns and Challenges:

- Pressure on Young Children: There's a concern that pushing young children to learn English too early can put undue pressure on them and negatively impact their enjoyment of learning.
- Quality of Instruction: The quality of English instruction in kindergartens and private language schools can vary widely. It's important to ensure that teachers are qualified and experienced in teaching young learners.
- Impact on First Language Development: There's a concern that early exposure to English could interfere with the development of children's first language. However, research suggests that this is not usually the case, as long as children continue to receive adequate support in their first language.
- Equity Issues: Access to quality English education may be limited to children from wealthier families, which could exacerbate existing inequalities.
- Developmentally Appropriate Practices: It's crucial to use developmentally appropriate teaching methods that are engaging, playful, and tailored to the needs of young learners.

The growing interest in English at the kindergarten level presents both opportunities and challenges. By carefully considering the potential benefits and concerns, and by adopting evidence-based teaching practices, educators and parents can help young children develop a love of learning and a strong foundation in English. Early English instruction leads to improved literacy and provides academic skills, fostering imagination. Because English is spoken globally, learning it makes it easier to communicate with people of all nationalities. In addition, it strengthens thinking by helping learners understand difficult ideas and improves communication by bridging language barriers. To conclude, let us consider the words of Russian pedagogue A.S. Makarenko, who asserted that kindergarten has an enormous influence on a child's education, making a long-term impression. Therefore, we must make early childhood education a priority.

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