

## DEVELOPMENT OF ORAL SPEECH SKILLS OF PRESCHOOL CHILDREN THROUGH ANIMATIONS

*B. Najimov*<sup>1</sup>

*Abstract:*

Oral speech development is essential for preschool children, as it supports communication, cognitive growth, and social interaction. This article explores the role of animations in enhancing oral speech skills, emphasizing their ability to enrich vocabulary, improve pronunciation, stimulate storytelling, and enhance listening comprehension. By engaging children through visually appealing and interactive content, animations encourage active participation in language activities. The study highlights practical strategies, including active viewing, role-playing, animated songs, and interactive storytelling, to optimize speech development.

*Key words:* Oral speech development, preschool children, animations, vocabulary enrichment, storytelling, listening comprehension, early childhood education, interactive learning.

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**Introduction.** Preschool is a vital stage for language acquisition and oral speech development. According to Vygotsky (1978), children's speech develops through social interaction and exposure to language-rich environments. Traditional storytelling, nursery rhymes, and conversations have been primary methods of fostering oral speech skills. However, with the growing digitalization of education, animations have emerged as an engaging and effective tool for enhancing children's verbal abilities.

**Main part. The Role of Animations in Oral Speech Development:** Animations combine visual and auditory elements, making them a powerful medium for language learning. They provide an immersive environment where children can associate words with actions, emotions, and contexts. **Enhancing Vocabulary Acquisition:** Animated stories introduce children to new words in context. Rice, Huston, Truglio, and Wright (1990) - They found that children who watched educational cartoons such as Sesame Street showed significant vocabulary gains compared to those who did not. The combination of images, narration, and repetition helps reinforce new words. **Improving Pronunciation and Articulation:** Animations present clear and expressive speech models that children can imitate. Studies by Linebarger and Walker (2005) – These studies suggest that well-designed educational animations can improve phonological awareness, helping children articulate sounds more clearly. **Enhancing Listening Comprehension:** Listening skills are fundamental to oral speech development. Animated stories engage children through dynamic characters and sound effects, encouraging them to listen attentively. Fisch (2004) - He showed that animated programs designed for language learning improved children's ability to follow narratives and understand spoken language. **Encouraging Storytelling and Narrative Skills:** Animations stimulate children's imagination and storytelling abilities. Research by Nicolopoulou et al. (2015) found that children who frequently watched and discussed animated stories developed better narrative structures in their speech. By recounting animated stories, children practice sequencing events, describing characters, and using expressive language. **Promoting Social and Communicative Skills:** Animations often depict dialogues and social interactions, providing models for effective communication. According to Bandura's (1986) social learning theory, children learn by observing and imitating behaviors. Animated characters engage in conversations, ask questions, and express emotions, helping children develop conversational skills.

**Strategies for Using Animations in Preschool Education. Selecting Educational Animations.** Educators should choose age-appropriate, language-rich animations that align with learning goals. Programs like Dora the Explorer and Bluey encourage interaction and verbal participation.

**Interactive Viewing** - Instead of passive watching, teachers should engage children with questions, discussions, and role-playing activities related to the animation. Research by Strouse, O'Doherty, and Troseth (2013): They suggests that co-viewing with an adult enhances language learning.

**Story Retelling Activities** - After watching an animation, children can retell the story using their own words. This practice strengthens narrative skills and reinforces vocabulary.

**Role-Playing and Dramatization** - Encouraging children to act out scenes from animations fosters expressive speech and confidence in verbal communication. **Integrating Animation-Based Learning with Traditional Methods** Animations should complement, not replace, traditional oral language activities like storytelling, singing, and reading aloud.

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<sup>1</sup> *Najimov Bobomurod Istamovich, Student of Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages*

Conclusion. The integration of animations into preschool education provides a dynamic and engaging way to support oral speech development. By enhancing vocabulary, pronunciation, listening comprehension, narrative skills, and social communication, animations serve as an effective tool in language learning. Educators should strategically incorporate animations into their teaching practices to maximize their benefits.

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