

DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN'S CREATIVE ABILITIES WHILE WORKING WITH KINETIC SAND

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Abstract

The article shows new possibilities for adaptation of preschool children in a pre-school establishment, mainly using kinetic sand in the graphic activity of preschool children. The possibilities of kinetic sand in work with younger preschoolers are analyzed. The purpose, methods and tasks of the creative group in the classes with kinetic sand have been determined. The experience of working with kinetic sand with children of younger and middle preschool age is described. The difficulties that arise in working with kinetic sand are revealed. The article summarizes the results of using three types of molding with the help of kinetic sand, the basic methods of working with kinetic sand and the technological sequence while creating a multilayer color picture in the marine style.

Keywords: graphic activity of preschool children, experimentation with materials, kinetic sand, colored sand, multilayer color picture, creativity of preschool children.

INTRODUCTION

Modern preschool education of children is based on the provisions of the Federal State Educational Standard. The topical issue is connected with ensuring the motivation for learning. Actually, this approach is the most appropriate approach to encourage obtaining of new knowledge and necessary skills by a preschooler. The first days of the child's stay in the preschool center cause him stress, therefore it is necessary to make the child's stay as comfortable and interesting as possible.

The problem of adapting the child to the conditions of the kindergarten has become relevant for our kindergarten which is the experimental site of the department of preschool and social pedagogics of Mari State University. The work on the organization of adaptation of children to a pre-school institution started shortly before the child entered the kindergarten. Teachers of the pre-school establishments carried out activities promoting the adaptation of young children to the conditions of the pre-school. Nevertheless, the attempts to establish a positive attitude among children in the kindergarten turned out to be ineffective.

Continuing the search for psychological mechanisms of adaptation and socialization of children of a younger preschool age, we came to the idea of introducing sand art-therapy into work with kids. Games with kinetic sand are of great importance for maintaining mental health, emotional well-being and development of cognitive processes. Application of the technology of sand therapy in work with children creates a natural environment that allows them to express their feelings, explore the world around them, teach them how to

communicate and learn about themselves. We believe that the technology of sand therapy should find application in the developing and teaching work of the teacher in the conditions of fulfilling the requirements of the Federal State Educational Standard for Preschool Education.

PURPOSE OF RESEARCH

In 2015, on the basis of Kindergarten No. 28 in Yoshkar-Ola “Belosnezhka”, a regional innovative site was opened by the order of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Mari El. This project was called: “Sand Therapy as a Means of Developing the Cognitive and Emotional Sphere of Preschool Children”. The purpose of the study is the study of psychological and pedagogical conditions for the development of the cognitive and emotional sphere of preschool children by means of sand therapy.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

The technology of sand therapy serves for children as a natural and accessible environment that allows them to express their feelings, explore the world around them, teach them how to communicate with each other and discover themselves. We suppose that the technology of sand therapy should find the application in the developing and teaching work of the teacher in the conditions of fulfilling the requirements of the Federal State Educational Standard for Preschool Education. The plans for the project include:

1. Formation of cognitive activity and creative abilities of children, development of their emotional and cognitive sphere within the framework of innovative activity using elements of sand art therapy and sand animation;
2. Increase the professional competence of teachers within the framework of the “School of Professional Excellence”;
3. Raising the level of psychological and pedagogical culture of parents in the conditions of the parents’ project called “Sandbox” (the goal of the projects is the formation of parents’ competencies in the use of art-therapeutic techniques in family education);
4. Optimization of the health-saving environment in the preschool establishments aimed at providing emotional comfort and positive psychological well-being of the child in the process of communicating with peers and adults in the kindergarten and family;
5. Development and approbation of games with kinetic sand in the course of practical activities of teachers and the introduction of results into the educational process of the kindergarten;
6. Conducting a series of training seminars on the topic “Psychological and Pedagogical, Social Adaptation of Children in the Conditions of the Preschool Establishment” and the master class “Sand Art Therapy as a Health Saving Technology for Working with Children and Adults”, “Development of Creative and Emotional Potential of Children by Sand Animation” for teachers of preschool establishments. All the seminars were organized on the basis of Kindergarten No. 28 in collaboration with the Federal State Budgetary Educational Institution of Secondary Professional Education of the Republic of Mari El “Medical College of Yoshkar-Ola”;
7. Conducting on the basis of Municipal Budgetary Preschool Educational Establishment “Kindergarten No. 28” section “Health-saving Technologies in the Modern Educational Process” in the framework of the August Scientific and Practical Conference;
8. Preparation and publication of a series of teaching materials “Pedagogical Sandbox”.

The analysis of the personnel potential has made it possible to identify professional teachers who can cope with innovations that have rich experience and possess creative pedagogical thinking. When working with personnel, we created the team of like-minded people. This team was formed according to the individual qualities of participants in the educational process, their professional level, organizational skills and psychological readiness for various activities.

In our previous articles [3, 4], some aspects of the development of the pictorial creativity of preschool children in the process of experimentation with pictorial materials were presented. In this article we will focus on the peculiarities of working with kinetic sand.

Kinetic sand (it is also called “alive”) is a relatively new material that can be used in the visual activity of preschool children. Kinetic sand is convenient because it is both loose and plastic, so it is possible to play with it as with ordinary sand, or create small buildings, crafts and paintings from it. The composition of sandy mass includes silicone filler. It perfectly holds the shape, while it easily disintegrates, and the structure of the material is both strong and porous. “Kinetic sand is like wet beach sand, but at the same time it is soft and

fluffy, it flows through fingers, leaving the hands clean and dry. It is loose, but it is possible to build various shapes from it” writes T.A. Andreenko [1].

Teachers of Kindergarten No. 28 “Belosnezhka” in Yoshkar-Ola are exploring the possibility of using kinetic sand in the visual activity of preschool children. In the kindergarten, a creative group of educators has been created which develops and approves playing games with kinetic sand.

The main tasks of the creative group are:

1. The study of the properties and visual possibilities of kinetic sand.
2. Practical mastering of the technique of working with kinetic sand: technical methods of using images using kinetic sand.
3. Creation of comfortable conditions for the lessons.
4. Development and approbation of play games with kinetic sand.

In the process of educational activity with preschool children the following tasks were solved:

1. To acquaint children with the basic properties and the graphic possibilities of kinetic sand.
2. To help to master technical means and image methods using kinetic sand.
3. To develop skills of perceiving and reproducing objects of complex shapes.
4. To develop compositional skills.
5. To develop artistic and creative abilities while creating hand-made articles and paintings from kinetic sand.
6. To bring up emotional understanding of beauty [5, p. 114-119].

Speaking of kinetic sand as a pictorial material, the teachers noted the following properties: sand holds low forms; columns with a height of more than 8-10 cm begin to “creep” under their own weight. The ready-made forms can be cut with a plastic knife into parts, they will not disintegrate.

The properties of kinetic sand are significantly affected by moisture. In a dry environment, sand becomes tight; it is harder for them to fill a plastic mold. But if the sand is sprinkled with water, it will again become soft and plastic. If the kinetic sand has become sticky, it must be artificially dried or laid a thin layer before restoring the properties. Thus, the humidity of the kinetic sand can be controlled.

The difficulties encountered in working with kinetic sand were identified.

1. If the colored sand is mixed, then it can no longer be divided by color.
2. Sand sticks to plastic molds. When working with colored sand, they must be washed.
3. Badly tamped sand does not hold shape.
4. Fill plastic molds better with hands, without using scoops.
5. When laying more than three forms on top of each other (for example, when building a tower), they begin to “creep” under their own weight.
6. For relief images it is more convenient to use plastic trays.
7. If the sand is very dry, it gives a crack on the craft.
8. The work is not stored for a long time and is not exhibited.

In the classroom, preschool children get acquainted with the properties of kinetic sand, master techniques and methods of imaging using this pictorial material. At first they learn to draw on the sand (to hold it with their fingers, leave prints of palms, various objects, etc.), then sculpt it out of sand. Children are offered three types of modeling: subject, story and decorative.

Subject molding. When depicting objects, the child uses plastic forms or collects the form with his hands. For example, butterflies, a head, petals and leaves of a sunflower are laid out by means of the form. The tree trunk and head are formed by hands.

Expressiveness of the image is achieved through the use of colored sand, the use of a variety of materials and tools: plastic knives, stacks for cutting shapes, sticks, cocktail tubes for connecting parts, stencils, silhouettes, organic glass of different sizes, tea strainer for obtaining fine crumb from sand, brush for

cleaning excess sand from the sandbox, additional materials: stones, shells, beads, buttons, sequins, artificial fruits and berries, etc.

Story molding involves combining several items located in the sandbox according to some topic. By arranging the plot composition, it is necessary to think over the interaction of objects with each other, to connect them with a common story or event.

Decorative molding is the decoration of the object with a pattern of stones, shells, beads, buttons, colored mosaic, etc. This enables children to show their creative abilities and imagination, favorably affects their aesthetic development.

Having mastered the basic methods of working with kinetic sand, children are introduced to the technique of creating a multilayer image using kinetic sand of several colors. Each color is used separately from the other. This technique attracts children's attention. With its help, multi-layered color pictures are created, and their themes and complexity level can be different ("Fruit Basket", "Vase with Flowers", "Butterflies", "Fish", "Fairy Bird", "Seascape", etc.).

To create a multilayer color picture, you need color sand, organic glass (1-2 pieces depending on the number of colors used), additional materials: artificial plants, natural material, decorative elements from colored paper, etc.

Let us give an example of creating a multilayer color picture in a marine style.

Material: colored sand (white, pink, blue), sandbox or tray, organic glass (2 pcs 3-4 mm thick), cocktail tube or mast stick, flag of colored paper, large mosaic (hollow plastic hexahedrons, triangles), artificial plants (palm trees), fish figurines and shells.

Technological sequence

Step1. After determining the plot of the future picture, we begin to transfer the drawing to the sandbox, dividing it into layers and colors. One layer is one color. Our drawing consists of three layers: the first layer is an island of white color with palm trees, the second layer is a pink sailer, the third layer is a blue sea with fish on waves.

Step2. In the upper left corner of the sandbox (tray) we form an island of white sand, we "plant" palm trees, lay out seashells.

Step3. On top put the first organic glass (so that the glass does not crush the bottom image, at the edges you can place the supports, for example, transparent decorative stones). Then, using a mold (plastic hexahedron) in mosaic technique, we lay out a deck of pink sand, install a mast (a cocktail tube or a stick), fix a flag of colored paper on it and "lift" the sailer (lay out of pink sand with a triangular shape or collect from parts sand hexahedron).

Step4. On top put the second organic glass. In the lower part, spread the blue sand and place fish figures on the waves.

The picture is ready. The idea of the next picture will depend only on the imagination of the children and the teacher.

CONCLUSIONS

Thus, working with kinetic sand has a great potential for developing the artistic and creative abilities of preschool children, their ability to see, understand and create something beautiful.

Cognitive interest is the greatest motivation that inspires preschool children to discover the world. Emotions play an important role in the children's lives as they help to perceive and respond to reality. Target purposes at the stage of completing preschool education, presented in the Federal State Educational Standard of Preschool Education, suggest the development of children's "curiosity and cognitive motivation; the formation of cognitive actions, the formation of consciousness; development of imagination and creative activity". Achievement of these goals is impossible without the formation of cognitive interest and motivation of children, which becomes an important incentive for activities especially in the preschool period.

Modern conditions give impetus to the search for innovative "not disclosed", interesting and developing methods and technologies in work with children of preschool age. One of the effective means of developing the cognitive and emotional sphere of preschoolers can be the use of sand therapy.

Sand therapy is a relatively new direction in the pedagogical practice and has a powerful potential, the

actualization of which allows changing didactic approaches to the process of education, upbringing, development of personality, organization and realization of joint intellectual, emotional and artistic activity of the teacher and pupil.

Games with sand are of great importance for maintaining mental health, emotional well-being and development of cognitive processes.

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