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Socialization opportunities of children's subculture

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Abstract

The paper discusses socializing functions of children's subculture, aims and contents of major stages in the technology of preschool children social development. It focuses on the characteristics of forms of preschool children involvement into children's subculture which implement this technology and provide successful integration of a child into a peer group. Key findings of the technology implementation related to positive dynamics in children's social development, autonomy need gratification and participation in social changes.

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1. Introduction

At the present stage of its development our society is undergoing some economic, social, psychological and other changes, with each of them creating particular difficulties in the process of social introduction of children into the society in which they are supposed to live and develop as personalities and subjects of social activity [1].

Recent research shows the appearance of negative tendencies in the child's social sphere. Modern children are characterized as being passive, lack in the ability and willingness to occupy themselves. They are unable to build a relationship with one another, they have difficulty getting involved in common activity, they are reluctant to submit to outer regulations, and their hyper egocentricity causes particular difficulty in following common rules.

The problem of socialization is highly relevant at every stage of education [2]. However, the solution of the socialization problem at preschool age is more complicated due to the following factors:

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First, despite the fact that the social and cultural situation around a child requires a search of new methods and means of work that meet children's present social needs, the methods and means of preschool children's social development used by adults remain largely unchanged;

Second, practicing educators quite often lack the sufficient competence level needed to reveal a child's individual potential and to provide pedagogical support to children with difficulty in socialization.

Thus, the emerging negative tendencies in children's social sphere development make it necessary to design pedagogical tools that take into account the peculiarities of children's social situation development and their living environment and help create conditions for harmonizing children's relationship with micro-society and their social adaptation to society's changing needs.

To develop such tools we referred to the phenomenon of children's subculture which we consider as a universal mechanism of a child's socialization [3], [4]. In our opinion, the socializing functions of children's subculture are as follows:

- Harmonizing the processes of socialization and individualization;
- Developing a value attitude to the world.

Let us explain the subject matter of the first function. On the one hand, in the process of involvement into children's subculture they directly create conditions ensuring social experience accumulation for children's interaction with adults and peers, development of cooperative work with other people, i.e. the process of social adaptation is in action. Meeting the child's needs for recognition, achievement of a social status that is different from a child's formal family status, children's subculture makes an impact on developing such socially significant qualities as social security, an active role, independence and the leadership role.

On the other hand, studying the world of peers and adults gives children an opportunity to realize one's peculiar features, preferences and interests, thus providing a process of individualization.

Consequently, the involvement of a child into children's subculture creates beneficial opportunities for ensuring successful socialization and harmonization of its main processes.

The second function is based on broad educative opportunities of children's subculture in the development of a child's axiological sphere. Collecting things, presenting one's family lifestyle, exhibitions of family interests – all these things give an opportunity to become familiarized with the inner world of other people, to analyze and compare one's values with other people's, to develop one's own system of values. Children's subculture can play a special role in developing the axiological sphere of a child with difficulty in socialization as it gives an opportunity to make choices, non-violent involvement into the world of human values on the principle of polyvariety. A theoretical understanding of the phenomenon of children's subculture led to the discussion of practical aspects of implementing its socialization opportunities.

1. Method

The main aim of preschool children's involvement into children's subculture is to expand and enrich their experience of constructive interaction with other people at an interpersonal level and create social relations on the basis of one's own unique personal potential.

The technology of preschool children's social development in the process of involvement into children's subculture includes 4 stages.

The first stage is to prepare educators for accepting peculiar features of children's subculture. The objective of the stage is to contribute to the development of educators' dialogical relations with the world of children on the basis of learning, understanding and accepting peculiar features of children's subculture.

The work on the implementation of the first stage contents is performed through organizing and holding pedagogical and reflexive workshops.

The primary objectives of pedagogical and reflexive workshops are as follows:

- To assist teachers in understanding and accepting peculiar features of children's subculture;
- Professional development and training.

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