

## **THE ROLE OF PLAY IN DEVELOPING CREATIVE THINKING FOR KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN**

**Khemmad Mohammed <sup>1</sup>, Ben khalifa smail <sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> University of El Oued – Hamma Lakhdar (Algeria),

<sup>2</sup> University of El Oued – Hamma Lakhdar (Algeria),

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### **Abstract:**

Modern societies pay great and serious attention at the same time to the child's first life, or the first five years, or what was agreed upon in the pre-school stage. For harmony, balance and growth.

Play is one of the behavioral patterns practiced by the child with the aim of obtaining pleasure, entertainment and fun, or with the aim of obtaining knowledge, information and social skills. Encouraging children to play and explore helps, them learn and develop their social, emotional, physical and cultural abilities. We cannot ignore the importance of playing in expanding their perceptions.

Play is a cornerstone of children's ability to learn, regardless of its nature. Play includes exploration and language experimentation, broadening of perceptions, and development of social skills. Especially since the child at this stage has the ability to imagine, innovate and think unlimited. However, many specialists in education and psychology in the field of creativity believe that children are born with the ability to be creative, and we adults only have to encourage and motivate them, and to accustom the child to creative thinking. Through the child's play, especially the games that require disassembly and assembly, and the achievement of technical skills and abilities, drawing and various motor skills, and depriving him of playing or isolating him from other children eliminates his creativity and inclinations.

In this research paper, we will try to identify the role and importance of play in developing creative thinking among kindergarten children.

**Keywords:** Play; Creative thinking; Kindergarten children

### **Introduction:**

Childhood is one of the most important stages in the formation of an individual's personality, in which tendencies and trends are formed, abilities unfold and skills and knowledge are acquired, and in which the path of the child's growth is determined physically, mentally, socially and emotionally according to what the surrounding environment provides him with its cultural, social and educational elements, so that this growth can reveal itself. And to reach its maximum goals.

Attention to childhood is one of the most important criteria by which nations and peoples civilized is measured, and attention to childhood in general and early childhood in particular is considered a civilizational imperative for developing countries, and a necessity of life imposed by the contemporary scientific and technological challenge facing these countries, Rousseau emphasized (1762). In his book Emile on the importance of early education in the Riyadh stage and

that sensory perception is the real basis for acquiring knowledge. Staluzi was interested in early education and was influenced by Vrubel in the early nineteenth century, as he focused on playing and games in the education of children in Riyadh. Therefore, the educational system is required to search for multiple ways to educate this child, as well as demands to provide him with the appropriate educational environment for his mental and temporal age to attract his attention, it develops the motivation and desire to learn and work. (Abdul Haq, Al-Felfely, 2014, p. 28)

The interest in the kindergarten stage is one of the things that indicate the crystallization of societal awareness and the development of its culture, and it seeks to rehabilitate the child properly to join the other educational stages so that he does not feel the sudden transition from home to school and that at this stage they need constant encouragement from kindergarten teachers Children in order to develop their love of work, instilling a spirit of cooperation, positive participation, self-reliance and confidence in them, acquiring a lot of language and social skills, and forming positive attitudes towards the educational process. Mackes, 2004, 45)

Kindergarten institutions play an important role in the development of the various aspects of the child's growth in early childhood, whether this growth is physical, emotional, social or kinetic. Therefore, the kindergarten institution must be a more exciting environment for the child, and it has more advantages than the home environment. The activity room in the kindergarten plays an important role in the formation of mental alertness in children, that is, the educational means that are used in it would enable children to normalize and social representation and learn to play, and then practice their activity, and thus the role played by kindergartens Based to a large extent on directing the child's energy to its proper course, and most educators confirm that the child's enrollment in kindergarten is of great benefit in all different aspects of growth. (Ibrahim Suleiman Masri, 2020, 70)

### **1- Kindergarten:**

They are those educational institutions with social extension between the institution and the parents to find out the needs of the child, which in turn seeks to rehabilitate him comprehensively in the mental, physical, ideological and intellectual aspects to prepare him to enter the primary school, and make him feel safe in the sudden transition from home to school leaving him with sufficient freedom to practice his activities Discover his abilities and potentials in order to gain new experiences.

Satisfying their desires and developing their needs, which affects the formation of their future personalities, and qualifies them for the following stages, as this stage is considered the basic base and infrastructure for the educational ladder, and its success is measured by the extent of the educational work progress in it, and the nucleus of the personality is formed in all its aspects at this stage if the conditions and conditions are prepared The appropriate health and educational levels to achieve the objectives of this educational stage. (Al-Ruwaili, 2019, 21)

### **2- Kindergarten Schools Objectives:**

**Physical and motor growth:** in which the child's growth increases rapidly in terms of height and weight, and females outperform males in the speed of growth, and his movement, activity and tendency to play increases, and his ability to control his muscles increases, and he depends on his senses to explore and know the world around him, and he also uses his hands efficiently It is high, and is characterized by long-sightedness, where he sees distant things more clearly than close things, and he sees large things more clearly than small things. After another. It is related to the

aspects of health and food (such as helping to identify the organs of the body, providing it with basic knowledge related to health, safety and the prevention of diseases, providing them with positive attitudes towards the values of hygiene, health and beauty, providing them with information about healthy food and its benefits, elements, types, times of consumption and related etiquette, and forming positive attitudes towards The values of gratitude for grace and not to be excessive or negligent, and to acquire motor skills related to moving muscles, and to form positive attitudes towards the values of activity and purposeful movement and the beginning of the formation of the hobby. (Al-Ruwaili, 2019, 21)

**Social development:** in which his emotions increase in intensity and strength, and he has a lot of fluctuation in his reactions and emotions, and he distinguishes the roles of his family members (such as the role of mother, father, brother, and sister), and he tries to imitate them in most things, distinguishes positive actions from negative socially, and loves to control more than The outgoing and loves control and leadership and may be selfish at times. This is monitored through the child's family communication and directed activities, encouraging them to be self-reliant and respecting the rights of others, and involving them in social activities.

**-Mental (cognitive) development:** the child's perception of things around him changes from total to partial awareness, and his horizons and abilities to think, imagine and remember things related to events are broadened, he quickly gets bored and turns towards change; Where he does not like to focus on one topic for a long time, and his questions increase clearly and his curiosity and research increases significantly, relying mainly on his five senses in the process of acquiring experiences and skills. His awareness of the concepts of time and space increases. He can be trained in scientific thinking, provide him with various information, and prepare them for the other educational stage.

**Psychological growth:** This is shown by controlling his emotions and anger, developing their pleasant emotions, helping them to self-esteem, and respecting their potentials, whatever they may be. Encouraging them to accomplish work, gaining self-confidence and satisfying their needs, in addition to love, acceptance and appreciation, and forming positive attitudes towards others.

Khalaf (2005) adds two other goals for this stage, namely:

-Discovering children with special needs to be dealt with in a way that helps them adapt to the society around them, satisfy their psychological and educational needs and provide their services.

- Discovering gifted children, nurturing them and developing their various skills. (Al-Ruwaili, 2019, 22)

### **3-Game concept:**

**Play:** a language that came in the tongue of the Arabs to Ibn Manzur: playing against the grandfather and it is said to everyone who does a job, but you are a player.

Either idiomatically it is the exploitation of kinetic and mental energy at the same time through an activity, directed or not, that children carry out to achieve fun and entertainment in a direct way, such as kinetic games, doll models, intelligence games, and role-playing. (Al-Ruwaili, 2019, 20)

Play is defined as any free or directed activity that children perform in order to achieve fun and entertainment, and adults usually use it to develop children's behavior and personalities. It

represents an automatic and spontaneous response for the child towards the games and recreational activities that we offer him, which make him feel enjoyment, joy, vitality and develop his talents. (Zakri, Nawar, 2016, p. 94)

#### **4- Creative thinking:**

In the twenty-first century, with the apparent development in all walks of life, creativity played a prominent role, and it was the pillar that man stands in the face of nature. As for the current era, creativity has imposed itself as a necessity of life. The power of nations has become measured by what they have of creative and effective minds, capable of interacting with advanced knowledge and technologies, as the acceleration of human knowledge requires speed to keep pace with them to benefit from them, and this only comes through human wealth. A high degree of creativity.

The issue of creative thinking has become one of the most important educational goals that human societies seek to achieve. Guilford, Maslow, and Torrance emphasized that childhood is one of the fertile stages for the study of creativity and the discovery of creative people, and that if creativity is not encouraged in childhood, its encouragement after that is Low feasibility. (Daoud, 2005, p. 505)

**The concept of creative thinking:** The concept of creative thinking has been exposed to many definitions that reflect the interests and point of view of its owners, so we find a discrepancy between these definitions, due to the difficulty of observing and predicting the phenomenon, as well as the qualitative difference of the creator in his way of thinking and dealing with variables.

Creative thinking is a complex and purposeful mental activity to channel a strong desire to search for solutions or reach original results that were not previously known. (Al-Astal, 2005, p. 144)

Torrance defined it as the ability to provide diverse answers and solutions to a single problem, to discover distinct relationships for the elements of a situation, and to reach innovative and new results.

**The importance of creative thinking skills:** Vygotsky points out that all human beings, even young children, are creative and that creativity is the basis of art, science and technology, and this creative ability is called imagination. A skill that is acquired and trained in creative activities, and its importance is that it trains the human to think independently. Self and Education. (Bishrah, Elias, p. 95)

#### **The role of play in developing creative thinking for kindergarten children:**

The child's play is the theater for expressing his fantasies, and the field through which he communicates with those around him, as it is the laboratory in which he tests his strength, and the strength of others. The mental aspect of play helps the child to perceive the outside world, develop his mental skills and exploration, so he learns to obtain information on his own, increases his cognitive and linguistic outcomes, trains to solve problems, and develops the spirit of creativity and innovation. Thus, play develops all aspects of growth, leads to maturity in its time, and shows the child's talents and creativity at the appropriate times.

Many educators have come to view children's play as part of the learning process, and the acquisition of mental skills; Because of its repercussions on the personality of the individual, and its positive development in the various stages of development, but the natural child is the one who

shows his talents and creativity by playing in the natural atmosphere. During play, Play is the best way to express these emotions and feelings. (Bani Khaled, 2013, 408)

And James Chminsky and his colleagues (1982) explained that children who have undergone science programs that rely on manual work get more and love science more and develop their skills in solving problems more than children who rely on textbooks for their learning of traditional programs. The hands help the mind to grow by constructing meaning, and exploration and inquiry are essential to meaningful learning and effective science education. (Khader, 2011, 494)

The child in the early childhood stage is an active seeker of knowledge, characterized by curiosity and cognitive passion to reveal concepts, facts and phenomena that are not clear to him. Therefore, science must be presented to kindergarten children through activities that satisfy children's curiosity for knowledge and discovery and allow him to participate and interact through his senses, which are considered its doors to knowledge, which makes it an effective participant in building knowledge. That is, the important thing for a preschool child is to provide him with a large amount of action or performance of the thing he is doing and not a large amount of information about the thing, so learning how to get to the answers is more important than the answers themselves. (Al-Baghdadi, 2001, 174)

The preparation of the kindergarten child should not be in the form of study materials, but rather there should be activities and games to increase the child's awareness of things. Therefore, the kindergarten must be the kindergarten of play. The good kindergarten that has various playing tools that provide programs that develop cognitive skills. Playing is a child's profession, and it is one of the ways in which the child plays himself and understands the world around him, and it is a way to learn skills and develop mental talents and creativity.

Many studies have proven the effectiveness of the use of play in developing creative abilities, including the Harrington study (1987), which demonstrated through the effectiveness of free play and activities in developing the ability to creative performance of pre-school children, and through which it concluded that free play is the best way to provide children with an environment Contribute to creative expressions. (Azzaq, 2019, 128)

Play is considered an innate life preparation for a child, it is one of the urgent necessities of life, and it is necessary to supervise and direct. Playing in childhood is an essential condition for the development of his mental and physical abilities and works on his social and emotional development. Through playing, the child discovers new things unfamiliar before, and he develops motivation Curiosity as well as preparing it for the future life. It is considered one of the crucial life stages in the life of fertile children to study creativity and train it to establish the next stages, and if creativity is not encouraged in childhood, encouraging it after that is useless.

Torrance and Goran also confirm that the years preceding school age (4-6) are the years of creativity, and that when a child enters primary school, creativity does not grow to the extent that it was in the pre-school years, parents and teachers recommend investing in the early years of the child's life and helping him to be creative. Play helps the child perceive the world in which he lives, so that he can fulfill his needs to the extent that his age allows; As play stimulates the natural desires to discover the physical world, making play fulfills the natural needs of every child such as grasping, touching, untangling, assembling, categorizing, and comparing objects. Thus, play eventually becomes an expression of the developed mental processes, which in turn reflect the developmental and emotional development of each child. Therefore, play is used as a tool for

developing thinking skills, learning knowledge, and acquiring skills of all kinds, intellectual and manual. (Al-Ruwaili, 2019, 19)

Note that children often tell us what they think and feel through their free pretend play, and their use of dolls, cubes, colors and clay. Thus, educational games, when well planned, organized and supervised, play an effective role in organizing learning.

The kindergarten stage is a stage for the comprehensive development of the child's senses, abilities, inclinations and tendencies, and it actively contributes to the development of his thinking by paying attention to his senses and mental abilities. He also pointed out that the best way to teach a child to think is to train his senses as the windows through which knowledge enters the child's mind and feelings, so the goal of paying attention to the development of the child's senses is to develop his thinking.

Many researchers such as Al-Fariji (2001) have advocated that kindergartens should be designed not only for education but also for thinking. Al-Derini (1991), Abdel-Fattah (2003) and Al-Adeni (2006) indicated that the child is capable of immediate creativity because he is born with a high degree of readiness, in addition to the fact that childhood is one of the fertile stages for the development and discovery of creativity.

The process of developing creativity in the child must emerge from an environment rich in stimuli, in which mental abilities are properly developed through the use of modern scientific programs and means in the kindergarten stage to expand his perceptions and develop his mental abilities in a creative manner. The study of the hyena (1997) found a correlation between Kindergarten environment and children's creative thinking abilities. (Abdul Haq, Al-Felfely, 2014, pg. 29)

#### **6- Suggestions:**

-Establishing training courses for kindergarten teachers aimed at increasing the experiences and information related to education through games.

Diversity in the use of kinetic games and educational, educational, intellectual and social games, while investing the available tools in implementing these games in a way that attracts children's attention and urges them to show their preparations and tendencies.

-The need for permanent contact between the family and the kindergarten in order to achieve family awareness of the importance of play for children.

Kindergarten curricula include scientific activities that stimulate creative thinking in children.

-Using methods and methods that stimulate creative thinking in children.

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