

Research on the Approach of Character Education in Kindergartens from the Perspective of Home Co-education

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Abstract: Early childhood is the key period to cultivate good character. As an important model of early childhood education, home co-parenting has a non-negligible impact on the formation of young children's character. This paper aims to explore the effective approach of character education for children from the perspective of home co-parenting. Through analyzing the connotation of home co-education, the present situation and challenges of children's character education, this paper puts forward some strategies, such as strengthening home communication and cooperation, innovating education methods, and establishing incentive mechanisms, to provide beneficial reference for children's character education.

Key words: Home co-breeding; Young children; Character education; Access

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1. Introduction

The Family Education Promotion Law of the People's Republic of China, promulgated in 2021, states that "primary and secondary schools, as well as kindergartens, should invite relevant personnel to impart family education concepts, knowledge, and methods according to the needs of parents, organize and carry out family education guidance services and practical activities, and promote joint education between families and schools"^[1]. Character education for young children is of great significance for their comprehensive development. However, traditional education models often overlook character education and overly focus on the cultivation of knowledge and skills. The rise of the homeschool co-education model has provided new opportunities for character education in young children. The close cooperation between family and kindergarten, as the main environment for children's growth, is crucial for salvaging their good moral foundation and shaping their good behavior. In addition, in October 2022, the report of the 20th National

Congress of the CPC stressed that educators should improve the social education mechanism of schools and families. In the context of the new era, to form high-quality character education for young children, more attention should be paid to the collaborative education between home and school, and based on this, new paths and directions for scientific and efficient character education for young children should be expanded ^[2].

2. The significance of homeschool co-education and early childhood character education

2.1. The Importance, connotation, and value of character education for young children

Character is mainly reflected in the integration of a person's basic qualities, including personal temperament, temperament, moral literacy, values, and other aspects. American psychologist Thomas Rickner believed that "character is integrated into moral life to reflect the integrity of character practice, and good character is composed of knowing good, wanting good, and doing good." The early childhood stage is not only a golden period for promoting physical and intellectual development but also an important period for establishing good character. This shows the importance of moral education for the comprehensive development of young children. Character education rich in educational value will have a significant impact on students' character development. The early childhood stage is a critical period for forming good ideological and moral values. Character education can help children lay a solid foundation of character, which is beneficial for their future life development ^[3]. Character education aims to cultivate excellent qualities such as honesty, trustworthiness, gratitude, and helpfulness in young children, which have a profound impact on their future growth and development. In early childhood education, character education is equally important, and even more crucial, as it relates to the formation of children's moral cognition and behavioral habits.

Childhood is a critical period for character formation, and character education can help children shape good personalities, such as honesty, courage, kindness, and self-discipline. These traits will accompany them throughout their lives and influence their behavior and interpersonal relationships. Character education emphasizes respect and a sense of responsibility towards others. Educating young children to care for and be willing to help others can cultivate their sense of social responsibility and lay the foundation for them to become responsible members of society. Through character education, young children can gradually understand and identify with social moral norms, improve their moral cognition level, learn to distinguish between good and evil, and distinguish right from wrong to make correct moral judgments and behavioral choices in daily life. Character education is closely related to the cognitive, emotional, and social development of young children. Good character helps children to be more confident, proactive, and active in learning, life, and interpersonal communication, achieving comprehensive development ^[4]. The character traits and moral concepts formed during early childhood will have a profound impact on their future outlook on life and values. Good character education can lay a solid foundation for young children's lives and help them maintain a resilient spirit when facing challenges and difficulties.

2.2. The connotation and value of homeschool co-education

Homeschool co-education refers to parents and kindergartens working together to complete the education of young children. In the process of early childhood education, both families and kindergartens regard themselves as the main body to promote the development of young children. Both parties are proactive, understanding, supportive, and cooperative, and they synchronize education with each other, forming an

educational synergy to promote the comprehensive development of young children. From the perspective of homeschool co-education, character education for young children is no longer solely the responsibility of kindergartens but requires joint efforts from families and kindergartens to shape good character in young children.

Homeschool co-education helps promote the comprehensive and harmonious development of children's physical and mental health. Homeschool co-education can help young children develop good living and hygiene habits, improve their self-protection ability, and form beneficial lifelong living abilities and civilized lifestyles. Helps young children develop good learning qualities such as being proactive, serious and focused, not afraid of difficulties, daring to explore and try, and willing to imagine and create. It can greatly promote the good social development of young children, making them feel a sense of security, trust, happiness, family, and friendship. Carrying out parental work is a compulsory course for every preschool teacher, and the success of various forms of home activities also reflects the level of the teachers' work ability. Parents have a better understanding of their children's temperaments, personalities, and interests than teachers and have accumulated certain experiences in educating their children. Teachers can enrich their own educational methods by communicating with parents and drawing on their educational experience. By participating in kindergarten activities, parents can further understand the educational and teaching work of the kindergarten, especially have a more comprehensive understanding of their children's development. Parents can gain practical knowledge, skills, and strategies for educating young children by participating in various activities organized by the kindergarten through communication with teachers, gradually changing their own educational concepts and behaviors, and enhancing the confidence of educating young children. Fully utilizing educational resources and forming an educational synergy, the complementary educational advantages of kindergartens and families are conducive to the full utilization of educational resources. Parents cooperate with kindergartens to cultivate children's self-care abilities, teachers respect and understand parents, and both parties work together for the healthy growth of children. Through homeschool co-education, parents and teachers can achieve information sharing and smooth communication, jointly providing suitable learning resources and activities for young children to meet their learning needs and improve their learning outcomes.

3. The current situation of character education for young children from the perspective of homeschool co-education

3.1. Low parental involvement

Although more and more parents are paying attention to character education for young children, the actual participation rate is still not high. Some parents believe that character education is the responsibility of kindergartens and lack awareness and action to provide character education for young children at home. In addition, due to busy work and other reasons, parents often find it difficult to participate in character education activities organized by kindergartens ^[5].

3.2. Poor communication between home and school

Homeschool communication is the foundation of homeschool co-education, but in practical operation, there are often problems with poor communication between home and school. On the one hand, kindergarten teachers may lack effective communication skills and methods with parents; On the other hand, parents may not have sufficient understanding of the educational philosophy, curriculum, and other aspects of

kindergarten, which can lead to difficulties in forming consensus and collaboration in educating children's character.

3.3. Lack of resources for character education

From the perspective of homeschool co-education, character education for young children requires abundant educational resources to support it. However, at present, there is still a lack of resources for character education in homeschool co-education. On the one hand, kindergartens may lack systematic character education courses and textbooks; On the other hand, parents may lack scientific parenting knowledge and methods, making it difficult to provide effective character education for young children at home.

4. The implementation path of preschool character education from the perspective of homeschool co-education

4.1. Establish an effective communication mechanism

Establishing an effective communication mechanism is the key to character education for young children from the perspective of homeschool co-education. With the rapid development of information technology, it has become possible to use information technology to promote home interaction. Kindergartens can establish online platforms or application software to provide parents with resources and guidance related to character education. Parents can learn about the educational philosophy, curriculum, and teaching methods of kindergartens through online platforms. At the same time, parents can also communicate in real-time with teachers through online platforms to jointly pay attention to the development of children's character. Kindergartens should maintain close contact with parents through various channels, such as holding regular parent meetings, establishing parent mailboxes, utilizing information technology, etc., to timely understand the performance and needs of children in the family, and jointly develop targeted character education plans. At the same time, kindergartens should strengthen guidance and training for parents, improving their understanding and participation in character education.

4.2. Utilizing information technology to promote homeschool interaction

Carrying out homeschool interactive activities is an important way for children's character education from the perspective of homeschool co-education. Kindergartens can organize parent visit days, parent classrooms, parent-child activities, etc., to allow parents to have a deeper understanding of the kindergarten's educational philosophy, curriculum, and teaching methods and to enhance their trust and support for the kindergarten. At the same time, through these activities, parents can better understand the performance and needs of their children in kindergarten and work together with teachers to explore strategies and methods for character education. These measures not only allow parents to participate in the character education of young children at home but also help strengthen communication and cooperation between home and school and improve the enthusiasm and effectiveness of parents' participation in character education.

4.3. Building common values and educational philosophies

Building common values and educational concepts is the core of character education for young children from the perspective of homeschool co-education. Families and kindergartens should jointly clarify the goals and content of character education and form a unified educational philosophy. Only under the guidance of

common values and educational concepts can families and kindergartens work more closely together to promote the character development of young children ^[6].

To this end, kindergartens can organize activities such as expert lectures and parent seminars to guide parents in establishing correct parenting concepts and methods. At the same time, kindergartens should strengthen daily communication with parents, timely understand their confusion and needs in parenting, and provide targeted guidance and support for teachers.

4.4. Clarify the role positioning of homeschool co-education and build a unified moral education environment

Parents and kindergartens should jointly shoulder the responsibility of character education for young children and clarify their respective roles in the construction of a moral education environment. As the first people responsible for the growth of young children, parents should establish correct educational concepts, actively participate in character education for young children, and especially create an environment conducive to character development for young children in the family. Kindergartens should provide rich character education resources and activities for young children and work together with parents to create a moral education environment that is conducive to the development of children's character.

4.5. Strengthen the construction of the teaching staff

Teachers are important implementers of character education for young children. From the perspective of homeschool co-education, kindergartens should strengthen the construction of their teaching staff and improve their understanding and implementation ability of character education. On the one hand, kindergartens should organize teachers to participate in character education training and learning exchange activities to enhance their professional competence and educational level. On the other hand, kindergartens should also establish a scientific teacher evaluation system and incentive mechanism, encouraging teachers to continuously innovate and practice in character education.

4.6. Design scientific educational content and adopt diverse educational methods

Parents and teachers should fully tap into the educational resources of families and schools, integrate high-quality content, and provide rich and diverse character education materials for young children. A series of themed character education content can be established in conjunction with educational objectives, such as Integrity Month, Responsibility Week, etc., allowing children to experience and feel character education in themed activities. At the same time, diversified educational methods should be adopted, such as setting up life-oriented and situational activities, allowing children to experience character education through practical operation and interaction, and cultivating good qualities.

4.7. Establish evaluation and feedback mechanisms and adjust educational strategies in a timely manner

The implementation of character education for young children from the perspective of homeschool co-education also requires the establishment of effective evaluation and feedback mechanisms. By observing and evaluating the development of children's character, problems can be identified promptly, and corresponding measures can be taken to solve them. At the same time, it is also necessary to regularly provide feedback to parents on the development of children's character, discuss and solve existing problems together with

parents, promote close cooperation between home and school, and jointly promote the comprehensive growth of children.

4.8. Emphasize cultivation education and strengthen practical experience

Character education for young children should focus on cultivating education, guiding them to develop good behavior habits and character through daily practice. By implementing practical activities such as water conservation and environmental protection, educators aim to cultivate children's environmental awareness and sense of responsibility; Cultivate children's love and gratitude awareness through parent-child reading, family activities, etc. At the same time, parents and teachers should encourage young children to constantly try and explore in practice, gradually forming good character through self-management and self-restraint.

The implementation path of character education for young children from the perspective of homeschool co-education requires the joint efforts and support of parents, kindergartens, and all sectors of society. By clarifying role positioning, strengthening communication and collaboration, designing scientific educational content, emphasizing cultivation education, and establishing evaluation and feedback mechanisms, educators can create a more conducive educational environment for children's character development and help them grow up healthily.

5. Conclusion and suggestions

5.1. Conclusion

Homeschool co-education is crucial for character education in young children. Early childhood character education is a complex and systematic project. As two important places for early childhood character education, families and kindergartens share the responsibility of cultivating good character in young children and have a positive promoting effect on their development. By establishing effective communication mechanisms, conducting homeschool interaction activities, building common values and educational concepts, strengthening the construction of teaching staff, utilizing information technology to promote homeschool interaction, and emphasizing evaluation and feedback, the comprehensive development of children's character can be effectively promoted.

There are still shortcomings in the current homeschool co-education. At present, some parents attach more importance to the cultivation of children's knowledge and skills while neglecting the improvement of their children's character. At the same time, some preschool teachers rarely actively communicate with parents to avoid an increase in workload, which makes it difficult for parents to understand the true performance of their children in kindergarten, their character situation, and their ability to cultivate their children's character in a targeted manner in daily life.

5.2. Suggestion

Strengthen communication and cooperation between home and community. Kindergartens should establish multiple communication channels and strengthen daily contact and communication with parents. At the same time, parents should actively participate in kindergarten activities and educational processes and jointly pay attention to the development of children's character. Enhance parental involvement. Kindergartens should enhance parents' awareness and participation in character education through organizing parent training, parent classrooms, and other activities. At the same time, parents should also strengthen their own learning

and master scientific parenting knowledge and methods. Enrich character education resources. Kindergartens should develop systematic character education courses and textbooks. At the same time, parents should also provide their children with rich resources for character education, such as picture books, audio-visual materials, and so on. Strengthen the construction of the teaching staff. Kindergartens should strengthen character education training and learning exchange activities for teachers. At the same time, establish a scientific teacher evaluation system and incentive mechanism to encourage teachers to continuously innovate and practice in character education. Utilize information technology means. Kindergartens should fully utilize information technology to promote homeschool interaction and resource sharing. At the same time, parents should actively use information technology to participate in the character education of young children.

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