

Promoting the Personal Development of Children Through Art Education

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Abstract: With the arrival of the new era, the development of society changes with each passing day, innovative ability and creative thinking skills are increasingly valued by society. The development of innovative ability should start with children. The emergence of new educational concepts requires the school to cultivate students in a comprehensive way. In this case, art and music, which were once considered unimportant, are gradually changing the educational field and are returning to the public eye. Studies have shown that art education plays an important role in promoting personal development of children. Therefore, art education should not be neglected, and we should see that art education plays a certain role in improving children's innovative abilities. However, there are still many problems in art education for children, which affects its role in promoting their personal development. Therefore, it is important to focus on how to promote children's personal development through art education. This paper analyzes the problems faced in children's art education and how to effectively maximize its role of art education to promote the development of children's art education.

Keywords: Fine arts education; Personal development; Teaching strategy

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1. Introduction

Innovation in science and technology creates and changes the future. Therefore, innovation skills are increasingly highlighted, which is of great significance for improving the scientific research and driving the development of the economy in China. Innovation skills should also be prioritized in the educational field, and focus should be placed on the development of creative thinking in children. The physical and mental development of children is different at different stages. The nature, imagination, and cognitive thinking of children is very divergent, and they can be very innovative. Therefore, we should consciously guide and encourage the development of children's creativity, and the personal development of children should be the focus of child education. In actual practice, there are no courses specially designed to cultivate innovation skills, but innovation skills are usually developed through the guidance of teachers in normal school subjects. With the emergence of new curriculum standards, art education has transformed from a marginalized subject into an important subject in education, making people realize the role of art education in the personal development of children. Because of its unique characteristics, art education is the subject that can best reflect students' innovative thinking abilities, and it can also significantly enhance their creativity. Therefore, we should be fully aware of the importance of art education and promote children's personal development through art education, so as to enhance children's innovation skills creativity.

2. The significance of developing children's art education

Child educator and artist Ron Field once said in *Creation and Mental Growth* that the meaning of art education is not just about teaching students how to paint, but also to promote the all-round development of students, which is the significance of art education ^[1]. Art education can promote the all-round development of children, so teachers should not only teach about art and the relevant knowledge, but teach their students how to appreciate art, to ensure the healthy mental and physical development of students.

2.1. Improving children's aesthetic intelligence

Children can not only gain new knowledge through words, but based on the new curriculum standards, they should also be developed in terms of intelligence, physique, and aesthetic intelligence. Art education teaches students how to appreciate beauty, so it can effectively improve children's aesthetic intelligence. Although the cognitive ability of children is still very limited, they have a unique aesthetic sense. Some things appeal to children in a different way; therefore, teachers should encourage the development of their aesthetic sense through unique ways. For example, lessons can be carried out outdoors, so that children can appreciate the beauty of different seasons and express their feelings in their works. In this way, their aesthetic sense can be improved.

2.2. Promoting the personal development of children

Each child is an individual with a different personality. Through art education, we can see the psychological growth of each child through their artworks, which is helpful for the personal development of children. Children have strong divergent thinking. They can express their inner thoughts and feelings through colors and artworks. Children can understand beauty through vibrant colors, so teachers should also guide students to think independently through various forms, and express their own ideas boldly, so as to promote the persona development of children in all aspects.

2.3. Enhancing children's creativity

The purpose of art education for children is to promote children's personal development and cultivate creative thinking. So, art teachers should not just teach students how to draw, but also teach students how to find and create beauty. Therefore, teachers should gain new experiences, come up with innovative teaching ideas and keep up with the times, to create a good classroom atmosphere and stimulate the students' enthusiasm in learning. Besides, teachers should provide appropriate feedback and encouragement. However, the most important thing is not the quality of the work, but the students creative process, their favorite form, the process of improving their sense of aesthetics and creativity, leading to a better personal development.

2.4. Developing the children's personality

Art education can promote children's physical and mental development. It provides a good creative environment for children, so that they can concentrate in creating their works. Moreover, children can express their inner feelings through paintings, so that their ideas will not be suppressed, which in turn helps develop their physical and mental health. Teachers should not interfere too much in their students' artworks, but negative emotions are found in their students' works, teachers should provide proper guidance and encouragement, so that they can have a positive and healthy mind ^[2].

3. Problems faced in art education

3.1. Improper teaching concept and too much emphasis is placed on the development of artistic skills

Art education nowadays fails to develop the creativity of children. The main reason for this is that most

teachers have an outdated concept of teaching, and their understanding of the teaching concepts is inadequate. In addition, there are still some drawbacks in terms of teaching objectives, in which achievements are the main priority, so art teachers only focus on the achievements of their students, thus only focusing on teaching basic painting skills. Under this teaching concept, teachers take themselves as the lead in the process of teaching, and blindly impart knowledge to students, while students can only be passive listeners. As a result, the students cannot think independently. In addition, some teachers only learned about the goals of art education but do not know how to use art education to promote the personal development of their students. As a result, the development of creativity becomes separated from painting skills. The development of art education then becomes stagnant and is unable to promote the personal development of children.

3.2. The influence of utilitarianism on children's art education

Utilitarianism is deeply rooted in the hearts of the people in today's society. In different teaching stages, parents always tend to learn from their children in the next stage, and the learning content is advanced. This utilitarian teaching concept on children's art teaching should not be ignored. Parents become overzealous under such a social environment, resulting in the emergence of many remedial classes, which emphasizes on how to improve their child. Parents are often willing to send their children to remedial classes. Although remedial classes can improve their children's painting skills to a certain extent and produce some achievements in a short time, these classes also limit the personal development of children and confine their resulting in low creativity ^[3].

4. Strategies to promote the personal development of children through art education

4.1. Setting clear goals: Inheriting the spirit of art

To better promote the personal development of children, teachers and parents should fully understand the significance of art education. The goal of art education is not to create painters or art experts, but to develop thinking skills and improve innovation skills and creativity. Children should be able to develop teamwork spirit, practical skills, and personality through art education. Therefore, teachers should be innovative in planning their lessons, and focus on how to cultivate their students' inquiry skills, increasing classroom participation, and developing creativity, rather than blindly focusing on their performance like organizing art receptions to showcase their artwork, which will limit the development of children's thinking instead. Art education for children should be different from that for adults. High standards and strict requirements will make children become submissive and follow any instruction from their teachers. Such teaching methods are not scientific and too rigid, and it will result in the homogenization of children's development. So, teachers should understand their role, improve their teaching skills, and learn new teaching concepts. Besides, they should also keep up with the times, eliminate outdated teaching methods, understand the teaching methods in different stages of child growth and the problem faced in teaching. Moreover, teachers should strive to improve their teaching methods, make the classroom a place for children to unleash their true nature and exercise and improve their creativity, and constantly promote their personal development.

4.2. Designing suitable content: The content of art education should be diversified while emphasizing on children's participation

Art education is unique, so the content of art classes should not only be based on textbooks. The content of art classes can be richer and more diversified, fully considering the children as different individuals. In this way the needs of the students can be fully met, and they will feel like they are the main body of the classroom ^[4]. To make art lessons more diverse and attractive, teachers can also include some unique content in addition to the standard syllabus: (1) allowing children to work in groups, (2) encouraging

students to explore the unknown, (3) organizing games in the classroom. Besides, teachers should fully understand that the goal of art education is to promote the all-round development of students. Teachers should also constantly explore the content of the textbook and design unique forms of teaching. Moreover, teachers can also look for suitable content in textbooks that can be taught in the form of activities and integrate activities with textbook content. Rich teaching forms make art classes more diversified and interesting, which can more stimulate children's enthusiasm and participation in learning ^[5]. After the content of the teaching material and syllabus are determined, the specific content of the activities is further determined based on the syllabus ^[6]. In the process of activities, we not only impart theoretical knowledge, but also make students the subject of learning. When designing activities, teachers should address constructive criticism from their students and make corresponding modifications. Teachers can choose some activities that are favored by children, and design thematic activities that children like ^[7]. Interesting lessons will increase the children's interest in learning. At the same time, teachers also should carefully observe their students and provide proper guidance when needed. Teachers should carry out suitable activities to teach children art knowledge that is more professional. The lessons should enable the students to fully relate theoretical knowledge to the activities carried out, so that the students can better absorb knowledge. In this way, the personal development of students can be accelerated, and their creativity can also be developed ^[8].

4.3. Observation: Giving children timely and correct guidance

In art education, teachers should be responsible in keeping an eye on their students' behavior and learning state. Once any abnormal behavior is observed, teachers should communicate with the student, understand their situation, and provide reassurance and comfort. In this way, students will feel cared for, and they will open up themselves. This allows students to maintain a positive attitude in learning and be more confident in the face of difficulties ^[9]. Teachers are not only responsible for imparting knowledge to their students, but also to pay attention to their personal growth. Therefore, teachers should actively interact with children, using rich body language to improve the students' perception, so that students understand that art is not only about completing an artwork with our hands, but art can also be felt with our hearts and observed with our eyes; the secret of art can be perceived from different angles, and we can feel different emotions from art ^[10]. In short, art education is not only about learning theoretical knowledge and painting skills, but also about appreciating beauty, developing creative thinking, laying a good foundation for future studies, promoting personal development, and improving participation and enthusiasm in learning. Teachers play an extremely important role, they are to lead and teach their students, further stimulate their interest in learning, and promote the all-round development of students ^[11].

4.4. Teachers: Strengthen the professional quality of art teachers

In today's teaching philosophy, students are the main body. Although the concept of the students being the main body is the priority in curriculum design, but the role of teachers is also important. Teachers are to guide students in their ideas and make sure that they are on the right path. Only an excellent teacher can truly respect the role of students as the main body, solve the difficulties for them, stimulate their passion for creation, and further promote their personal development. Therefore, schools should pay attention to the selection and training of teachers. Schools should regularly improve the professional qualities of their teachers, which should not only include the cultivation of professional knowledge, but also education ideas ^[12]. In this process, a suitable reward and punishment system should be set up to encourage teachers to increasingly improve their theoretical knowledge and professional qualities. Teachers will then pay more attention to the development of their students' comprehensive quality, rather than being achievement-oriented and restricting the students' thinking. Moreover, teachers can also improve their professional

qualities, such as listening to lectures by other teachers and learning new teaching concepts online. In the information age, with various channels of knowledge, teachers should set an example by renewing their educational concepts to better nurture students, stimulate students' creativity, and promote the personal development of their students ^[13].

5. Conclusion

In short, the significance of art education is to teach children how to appreciate and create beauty. Art education also helps develop independent thinking and stimulate creativity and better promote the personal development of children. Moreover, art education helps ensure the development of children's physical and mental health. Therefore, the original purpose of art education and the true meaning of education should always be remembered, with students being the main body of learning, to ensure the sustainable development of art education.

Disclosure statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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