

**DEVELOPMENT OF CRITICAL THINKING IN PRIMARY SCHOOL
STUDENTS**

**РАЗВИТИЕ КРИТИЧЕСКОГО МЫШЛЕНИЯ У МЛАДШИХ
ШКОЛЬНИКОВ**

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Abstract: *This article examines the problem of developing critical thinking in primary school students. Modern methods and approaches to the development of students' analytical abilities are analyzed. The importance of critical thinking in the educational process and its role in preparing for life in an information society is emphasized.*

Аннотация: *В данной статье рассматривается проблема развития критического мышления у младших школьников. Анализируются современные методы и подходы к развитию аналитических способностей учащихся. Подчеркивается важность критического мышления в образовательном процессе и его роль в подготовке к жизни в информационном обществе.*

Keywords: *Critical thinking, primary school, education, analytical skills, teaching methods, problem-solving.*

Ключевые слова: *Критическое мышление, начальная школа, образование, аналитические способности, методы обучения, решение проблем.*

Introduction

The modern education system aims not only to transmit knowledge but also to develop students' ability to analyze, evaluate information, and think independently. Critical thinking has become one of the key skills necessary for successful learning and adaptation in a rapidly changing world. This article explores the characteristics of critical thinking development in primary school students and methods that can be used in the educational process.

Definition of Critical Thinking

Critical thinking is the ability to analyze, compare, draw conclusions, and make informed decisions. It includes the following components:

- Analyzing information and identifying key ideas.
- Evaluating the reliability of sources.
- Formulating well-reasoned conclusions.
- Questioning statements and considering alternative viewpoints.

For primary school students, developing these skills requires a special approach, as their cognitive abilities are still in the early stages of formation.

Methods for Developing Critical Thinking

There are numerous techniques aimed at fostering critical thinking in young learners. Here are the main ones:

1. **Questioning Method.** Teachers ask open-ended questions that encourage students to think, analyze, and seek explanations. For example: "Why do you think so?", "What other possibilities exist?".
2. **Discussions and Debates.** Group discussions help children form their own opinions, argue their viewpoints, and listen to others.
3. **Working with Texts.** Analyzing fairy tales, short stories, and articles teaches students to identify main ideas, recognize logical connections, and draw conclusions.

4. **Game-Based Learning.** Role-playing games, brainstorming sessions, and solving logical problems contribute to flexible thinking and decision-making skills.

5. **Project-Based Learning.** Independent or group work on mini-projects helps children analyze information, explore problem-solving strategies, and draw conclusions.

Importance of Critical Thinking in Primary Education

Developing critical thinking contributes not only to academic success but also to fostering students' confidence, independence in decision-making, and adaptability to complex life situations. It promotes creativity, teamwork skills, and the ability to process information in a world increasingly influenced by digital technology.

Conclusion

The development of critical thinking in primary school students is a crucial task for modern education. Using effective methods such as questioning, discussions, working with texts, and project-based learning enhances students' analytical skills and ability to perceive information consciously. Developing these skills at an early age lays a solid foundation for future learning and success in society.

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