THE ROLE OF STORY-BASED PROBLEM SOLVING IN ENHANCING CHILDREN'S LOGICAL THINKING

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Abstract: *This article examines the important role of story-based problem solving in improving children's logical thinking. When children work with problems that are integrated into stories, they naturally use reasoning skills such as comparing, predicting, analysing causes, and identifying solutions. Story-based tasks create a meaningful learning environment because children are emotionally engaged in the storyline. They follow characters, understand situations, and think about possible outcomes, which increases their motivation and focus.These activities help young learners develop creativity, critical thinking, and decision-making skills. In addition, the article discusses practical strategies for teachers: using short story puzzles, real-life situation stories, picture-based stories, and group storytelling tasks.The article highlights that stories are not only entertaining but also powerful educational tools for developing children's intellectual abilities.*

Key words: *story-based learning, problem solving, logical thinking, cognitive development, children's reasoning, creative thinking,educational stories,classroom activities, critical thinking skills,child psychology.*

INTRODUCTION

Story-based problem solving has become an essintial and innovative approach in modern education, especially for developing children's logical thinking. In early childhood and primary school years, children learn best when information is connected to interesting stories, characters, and action. Stories naturally get children's attention and make learning more meaningful. When a problem is included inside a story, children do not see it as a difficult task. Instead, they become curious about what will happen next and try to understand the situation deeply. This increases their motivation and encourages them to think carefully.

Logical thinking is a key skill for children because it helps them analyse information, make decisions, and solve problems in both academic and real-life situations. Traditional exercises often focus on memorisation, but story-based tasks require children to understand the whole context, find segnificant details, and make connections between different parts of the story. This process supports cognitive development and teaches children to think in a clear, organised, and systematic way.In many classrooms around the world, teachers now use stories to help children develop creativity, critical thinking, and reasoning skills. Story-based problem solving creates a comfortable and enjoyable learning environment where children can practise logical thinking without feeling stressed. It also provides opportunities for discussion, group work, and communication, which makes learning even more effective.

This article focuses on the role of story-based problem solving in improving children's logical thinking. It explains how stories support cognitive development, why they motivate learners, and what types of story-based activities can be used in the classroom. The article also highlights the practical benefits of this method and shows why it should be considered an essential part of early education.

MAIN PART

Story-based problem solving plays an important role in developing children's logical thinking because it connects imagination with real analytical skills. When a child reads or listens to a story, they follow the characters, understand the events, and try to predict what might happen next. This natural process already activates logical thinking. When a problem is placed inside the story, children must analyse the situation step-by-step, remember important details, compare information, and find connections between different elements of the story. This helps them practise reasoning without feeling pressure, because the activity feels like a part of the story, not a difficult exercise.

Stories also increase children's motivation and attention, which are important for strong logical thinking. Children are often emotionally engaged in stories, so they try harder to understand the events and solve the tasks. Imagination works as a powerful tool here: when children imagine the situation in their minds, they can test different ideas and think about several possible solutions. This improves both creativity and decision-making. The combination of imagination and problem solving makes learning more enjoyable and meaningful.

Cognitive development is strongly supported through story-based tasks. These activities help children recognise patterns, understand cause-and-effect relationships, and evaluate different choices. They learn to identify the most important information in the story and use it logically to solve the problem. This type of learning also improves their critical thinking because they must justify their ideas and explain why they chose a certain solution. Logical thinking becomes more natural for children when it is connected to familiar events and interesting characters.

Different types of story-based problems can be used in education depending on the age of the learners. Short story puzzles help children find missing information using clues in the story. Real-life story situations teach them to connect their thinking with daily experiences. Picture-based stories support visual learners, helping them follow a sequence of events and explain the logic behind it. Group storytelling tasks develop communication skills and allow children to solve problems together, using teamwork and discussion.

For story-based problem solving to be effective in the classroom, teachers need to select stories that are clear, interesting, and suitable for children's cognitive levels. Teachers can guide children through the process by asking open-ended questions such as "Why did this happen?" or "What could the character do next?" Such questions encourage children to think more deeply and explain their reasoning clearly. Another useful strategy is to let children create their own short stories with problems inside them. This activity increases creativity and helps children understand the logical structure of a story.Research shows that regular use of story-based problem solving improves children's performance in subjects such as reading, mathematics, and science, because the skills they gain-like analysing, predicting, and decision-making-are useful in many areas of learning. Children become more confident and active learners, and they start to enjoy problem-solving tasks instead of being afraid of them. In this way, story-based learning becomes an effective and engaging method for developing logical thinking in young learners.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, story-based problem solving is a powerful and effective method for developing children's logical thinking. When problems are presented through stories, children become more interested and emotionally involved, which helps them stay focused and motivated. Stories create a natural context for children to analyse information, recognise patterns, and

understand cause-and-effect relationships. Because the tasks are connected to characters and events, children learn to think more deeply and make decisions based on logical reasoning.

This method also strengthens important cognitive skills such as memory, attention, creativity, and critical thinking. By imagining the events of the story, children explore different solutions and learn to justify their ideas. Story-based problem solving not only prepares them for academic subjects like reading and mathematics but also helps them develop practical thinking skills needed in daily life.The use of stories in problem-solving activities offers a meaningful and enjoyable learning experience. It supports intellectual growth, encourages active learning, and builds confidence in young learners. Therefore, story-based problem solving should be widely used in educational settings to help children become thoughtful, independent, and logical thinkers.

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